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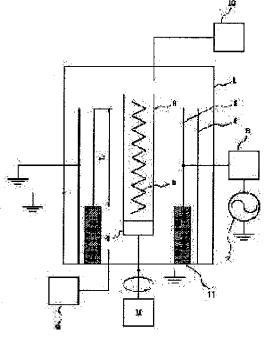
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(54) PLASMA TREATING DEVICE AND TREATMENT



(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To form a deposited film of a uniform thickness at a high speed on a large-area base body with the film forming apparatus utilizing plasma by specifying the high-frequency voltage to be used, the construction of the apparatus, impedance value, etc.

CONSTITUTION: The amorphous Si film is formed on the surface of the base body 3 by evacuating the inside of a reaction vessel 1 arranged with a cylindrical cathode electrode 2 and a ground shield 6 on the outer periphery of the substrate 3 to be formed with the film to vacuum supplying a gaseous mixture composed of the gaseous Si raw material, such as SiH4 and gaseous H2 carrier, impressing a high-frequency electric power of 30 to 300MHz frequency with a high-frequency power source 7 to the cathode electrode 2 and generating the

plasma between this electrode and the base body 3 to crack the SiH4. The plasma impedance, the impedance of the cathode electrode, the impedance of the ground shield, the impedance between the base body 3 and a holder, the length of the base body 3 and the cathode electrode and the spacings between the base body 3, the cathode electrode 2 and the ground shield 6 are regulated to specific values, by which the uniform amorphous Si film is formed at a high speed on the base body 3.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on this electrode. The plasma impedance Zp and the impedance Zc of a cathode electrode |Zc|/|Zp|<=5, Or a cathode electrode With the impedance Za of an electrode holder and the impedance Zc of a cathode electrode holder and the

shielding and this processed base to surround, and its base, either |Za|/|Zsh|<=1 and |Zc|/|Zsh|<=1 Plasma treatment equipment characterized by filling.

[Claim 2] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. While arranging soft magnetic materials to the side which faces plasma generating space as ground shielding installed around the cathode electrode with which it is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode, and high-frequency power is impressed Plasma treatment equipment characterized by arranging a non-magnetic material to the side which faces high-frequency power installation.

[Claim 3] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The cathode electrode of the plasma treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode

with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters at least The dimension of an one direction (L1), Plasma treatment equipment characterized by the range of a ratio (L1/L2) with the dimension (L2) of the processed base which counters being 0.5-1.1.

[Claim 4] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The distance d1 of the ground electrode and cathode electrode which are except the electrode holder holding a processed base or its base, are installed near the cathode and touch plasma generating space, Plasma treatment equipment characterized by the ratio (d1/d2) of the distance d2 between said processed bases or said electrode holders, and cathode electrodes being one or more.

[Claim 5] Plasma-treatment equipment characterized by to cover a part or the whole on the cathode electrode surface where it is plasma-treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base which the discharge

frequency made generate the plasma between the cathode electrode which impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters, and has arranged on an electrode within the reaction container which can be decompressed, and high-frequency power is impressed with a dielectric.

[Claim 6] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. Plasma treatment equipment which is made cylindrical [the configuration of a cathode electrode] and is characterized by dividing two or more cathode electrodes with which high-frequency power is impressed in the die-length direction, and preparing the dielectric of the thickness which negates the inductance component of each cathode according to an impression frequency between each cathode.

[Claim 7] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency

impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. In the part which sees from the RF impression induction of the cathode electrode of plasma treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters, and counters the furthest cathode polar zone, the touch-down potential of a base Plasma treatment equipment characterized by taking.

[Claim 8] The plasma-treatment equipment which is plasma-treatment equipment which carries out the plasma treatment of the processed base which the discharge frequency made generate the plasma between the cathode electrode which impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters, and has arrange on an electrode within the reaction container which can be decompress, and is characterize by to cover the space where plasma generating space touches ground shielding and said ground shielding with an insulating material.

[Claim 9] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma

is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The cathode electrode of the plasma treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters at least The dimension of an one direction (L1), While arranging soft magnetic materials to the side which faces plasma generating space as ground shielding which makes a ratio (L1/L2) with the dimension (L2) of the processed base which counters the range of 0.5-1.1, and is installed around said cathode electrode Plasma treatment equipment characterized arranging a non-magnetic material to the side which faces high-frequency power installation. [Claim 10] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode.

The cathode electrode of the plasma treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters at least The dimension of an one direction (L1), A ratio (L1/L2) with the dimension (L2) of the processed base which counters is made into the range of 0.5-1.1. The space where plasma generating space touches ground shielding installed around said cathode electrode, and said ground shielding with an insulating material And a bonnet, Furthermore, the distance d1 of the ground electrode and cathode which are installed near the cathode except the electrode holder holding said processed base or its base, and touch plasma generating space, Plasma treatment equipment characterized by the ratio (d1/d2) of the distance d2 between said processed bases, said electrode holders, and cathodes being one or more.

[Claim 11] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is the plasma treatment approach which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode.

The plasma impedance Zp and the impedance Zc of a cathode electrode |Zc|/|Zp|<=5, With or the impedance Za of an electrode holder and the impedance Zc of a cathode electrode holding the impedance Zsh of ground shielding and this processed base which enclose a cathode electrode, and its base | The plasma treatment approach characterized by filling Za|/|Zsh|<=1 and |Zc|/|Zsh|<=1.

[Claim 12] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. While arranging soft magnetic materials to the side which faces plasma generating space as ground shielding installed around the cathode electrode with which it is the plasma treatment approach which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode, and high-frequency power is impressed The plasma treatment approach characterized by carrying out plasma treatment to the side which faces high-frequency power installation in the condition of having arranged the non-magnetic material.

[Claim 13] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the

plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is the plasma treatment approach which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The cathode electrode of the plasma treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters at least The dimension of an one direction (L1), The plasma treatment approach characterized by carrying out plasma treatment of the ratio (L1/L2) with the dimension (L2) of the processed base which counters as range of 0.5-1.1.

[Claim 14] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The distance d1 of the ground electrode and cathode electrode which are except the electrode holder holding a processed base or its base, are installed near the

cathode and touch plasma generating space, The plasma treatment approach characterized by making the ratio (d1/d2) of the distance d2 between said processed bases or said electrode holders, and cathode electrodes or more into one, and carrying out plasma treatment.

[Claim 15] The plasma-treatment approach characterized by to carry out plasma treatment of a part or the whole on the cathode electrode surface where it is the plasma-treatment approach which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base which the discharge frequency made generate the plasma between the cathode electrode which impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters, and has arranged on an electrode within the reaction container which can be decompressed, and high-frequency power is impressed in the condition covered with the dielectric. [Claim 16] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is the plasma treatment approach which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. It is supposed that the configuration of a cathode electrode is cylindrical and two or

more cathode electrodes with which high-frequency power is impressed are divided in the die-length direction. The plasma treatment approach characterized by preparing the dielectric of desired thickness between each cathode, and negating and carrying out plasma treatment of the inductance component of each cathode according to an impression frequency.

[Claim 17] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is the plasma treatment approach which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. In the part which sees from the RF impression induction of the cathode electrode of plasma treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters, and counters the furthest cathode polar zone, the touch-down potential of a base The plasma treatment approach characterized by carrying out plasma treatment in the condition of having taken.

[Claim 18] the plasma treatment approach which be the plasma treatment

approach which carry out the plasma treatment of the processed base which the discharge frequency made generate the plasma between the cathode electrode which impress 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counter, and have arrange on an electrode within the reaction container which can be decompress, and be characterize by to carry out the plasma treatment of the space where plasma generating space touch ground shielding and said ground shielding in the condition covered with an insulating material.

[Claim 19] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is the plasma treatment approach which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The cathode electrode of the plasma treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters at least The dimension of an one direction (L1), While arranging soft magnetic materials to the side which faces plasma generating

space as ground shielding which makes a ratio (L1/L2) with the dimension (L2) of the processed base which counters the range of 0.5-1.1, and is installed around said cathode electrode The plasma treatment approach characterized by carrying out plasma treatment to the side which faces high-frequency power installation in the condition of having arranged the non-magnetic material. [Claim 20] Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The cathode electrode of the plasma treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters at least The dimension of an one direction (L1), A ratio (L1/L2) with the dimension (L2) of the processed base which counters is made into the range of 0.5-1.1. The space where plasma generating space touches ground shielding installed around said cathode electrode, and said ground shielding with an insulating material And a bonnet, Furthermore, the distance d1

of the ground electrode and cathode which are installed near the cathode except the electrode holder holding said processed base or its base, and touch plasma generating space, The plasma treatment approach characterized by the ratio (d1/d2) of the distance d2 between said processed bases, said electrode holders, and cathodes being one or more.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] This invention The photo conductor device for electrophotography as a semiconductor device, the line sensor for an image input, The plasma-CVD equipment which can form suitably the functional deposition film of a useful crystalline substance or the quality of a non-single crystal in an imaging device, a ****** device, etc., The sputtering system which can form suitably the insulator layer as a semiconductor device or an optical element, metal wiring, etc., It is related with plasma treatment equipments, such as etching systems, such as a semiconductor device, and the art of those. Or in

more detail it is the plasma treatment equipment which processes a base, using especially the plasma as a source of excitation, and an art, and a RF (30MHz or more and 300MHz or less) is especially related with usable plasma treatment equipment and its art suitably.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] The plasma treatment equipment currently used with the semi-conductor etc. has various approaches according to each application. For example, in membrane formation, the equipment and the approaches of harnessing the description variously, such as an oxide film which used plasma-CVD equipment and an approach, semi-conductor film of formation of a nitride or an amorphous silicon system and metal wiring film using a sputtering system or an approach, an etching system, and ultra-fine processing technology using an approach, are used.

[0003] Furthermore, the want to membraneous quality and the improvement in a throughput is also strong in recent years, and various devices are also considered.

[0004] The plasma process especially using high-frequency power is used from various advantages -- the stability of discharge can use it also for high insulating

ingredient formation of an oxide film or a nitride.

[0005] Conventionally, generally as for the oscillation frequency of the RF generator for discharge used for plasma processes, such as plasma CVD, 13.56MHz is used. An example of the plasma-CVD equipment currently generally used for deposition film formation is shown in <u>drawing 23</u>. [many] The plasma-CVD equipment shown in <u>drawing 23</u> is membrane formation equipment in the case of forming the amorphous silicon film (it being described as the a-Si film below) on cylinder-like the base for electrophotography photo conductors. Hereafter, the membrane formation approach of the a-Si film using this equipment is explained.

[0006] The base (base for electrophotography photo conductors) 3 of the shape of a cylinder as cylinder-like the cathode electrode 2 and counterelectrode which were insulated electrically [the reaction container 1] by the insulating material 11 in the reaction container 1 which can be decompressed formed membranes is arranged. In order to raise the homogeneity of thickness and a film property, the dimension of the cylinder shaft orientations of the cathode electrode 2 is made longer than the dimension of the cylinder shaft orientations of the base formed membranes. For example, it is the plasma-CVD method a discharge

frequency is 13.56MHz, and in order for thickness nonuniformity to acquire about **10% or less of thickness homogeneity, the dimension of the cylinder shaft orientations of a cathode electrode is usually the need about 2 times from about 1.5 times, even if there are few dimensions of the cylinder shaft orientations of the base formed membranes. It is defined as the value which attached and expressed ** as thickness nonuniformity to one half which broke the difference of the maximum thickness of the thickness on the base formed membranes, and the minimum thickness by average thickness of the values of a value here. Therefore, also in the plasma-CVD equipment shown in drawing 23, it considers as the relation of the die length of the base 3 formed membranes and the cathode electrode 2 so that it may become such [usually] relation (however, in drawing 23, the relation is not shown in accuracy). The base 3 formed membranes is held at the rolling mechanism 4 driven by Motor M, and is heated from the inside at the internal heating heater 5. Around the cathode electrode 2, the ground shielding 6 is arranged so that discharge may not occur between the cathode electrode 2 and the reaction container 1. RF generator 7 is connected to the cathode electrode 2 through the matching circuit 8. 9 is an evacuation means and 10 is a gas supply means.

[0007] After exhausting to the degree of vacuum (for example, high vacuum) of a request of the inside of the reaction container 1 with the evacuation means 9, with the gas supply means 10, doping gas, such as diboron hexahydride gas, is introduced again, and material gas, such as silane gas, disilane gas, methane, and ethane gas, is maintained in pressure of several torrs from a several 10mm toll.

[0008] The a-Si film is deposited on the base 3 heated by 200 degrees C - about 350 degrees C at the heating heater 4 formed membranes by supplying 13.56MHz high-frequency power to the cathode electrode 2, generating the plasma between the cathode electrode 2 and the base 3 formed membranes, and decomposing material gas into it from RF generator 7.

[0009] The rate of sedimentation for obtaining the a-Si film which is satisfied with this membrane formation approach of the engine performance of an electrophotography photo conductor may be unable to acquire the property as a photo conductor, if it sets up so that it may be carried out by the about 6 micrometers [per hour] rate of sedimentation, and the rate of sedimentation is gathered more than it. Moreover, when the a-Si film was generally used as an electrophotography photo conductor, in order to obtain electrification ability, at

least 20-30-micrometer thickness was required, and long duration was required in order to manufacture an electrophotography photo conductor.

[0010] By the way, recent years, The plasma-CVD equipment of a parallel plate mold It uses and there is a report (Plasma Chemistry and Plasma Processing, Vol 7, No 3, p(1987)267-273) of the plasma-CVD method using an RF generator 13.56MHz or more. Possibility that the rate of sedimentation can be raised without dropping the engine performance of the deposition film on the former being higher than 13.56MHz and carrying out a discharge frequency is shown, and it is observed. Moreover, sputtering is also made and, as for the report which makes this discharge frequency high, that predominance is examined widely in recent years.

[0011]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] this invention persons have inquired using conventional plasma-CVD equipment which was mentioned above by using the high-frequency power of a higher frequency for a discharge frequency instead of conventional 13.56MHz for the improvement in the rate of sedimentation of the film which has a good property.

[0012] Consequently, although it has checked, on the discharge frequency of

13.56MHz, as for to be sure the good-quality film being producible by having raised the frequency with the rate of sedimentation higher than before as the object, it turned out that the following problems which did not turn into a problem may newly occur.

[0013] That is, the plasma may omnipresence-ize by raising a discharge frequency, consequently **20% or more of thickness nonuniformity may be produced the case of thickness nonuniformity like an electrophotography photo conductor which heterogeneity arises [in / comparatively / the worked object of a large area] in the rate of sedimentation, and poses a problem practically as a result, for example, an electrophotography photo conductor.

[0014] Such thickness nonuniformity poses a big problem, when forming the functional deposition film of a useful crystalline substance or the quality of a non-single crystal not only in an electrophotography photo conductor but in the line sensor for an image input, an imaging device, a ****** device, etc. Moreover, also in other plasma processes, such as dry etching and a spatter, when a discharge frequency is raised, the same processing nonuniformity arises, and at this rate, it becomes a practically big problem.

[0015] The object of this invention conquers the above conventional troubles,

and is in the conventional plasma process to offer the plasma treatment equipment and the approach of carrying out plasma treatment of the base of a large area to homogeneity comparatively with the processing speed which was not able to be attained.

[0016]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The plasma treatment equipment of this invention which attains the above-mentioned object Within the reaction container which can be decompressed, the plasma is generated between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on this electrode. The plasma impedance Zp and the impedance Zc of a cathode electrode |Zc|/|Zp|<=5, Or a cathode electrode It is characterized by filling either |Za|/|Zsh|<=1 and |Zc|/|Zsh|<=1 with the impedance Za of an electrode holder and the impedance Zc of a cathode electrode holding the impedance Zsh of ground shielding and this processed base to surround, and its base.

[0017] Moreover, the plasma treatment equipment of this invention generates

the plasma within the reaction container which can be decompressed between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. While arranging soft magnetic materials to the side which faces plasma generating space as ground shielding installed around the cathode electrode with which it is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode, and high-frequency power is impressed it is characterized by arranging a non-magnetic material to the side which faces high-frequency power installation.

[0018] Moreover, the plasma treatment equipment of this invention generates the plasma within the reaction container which can be decompressed between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The cathode electrode of the plasma treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters at least The dimension

of an one direction (L1), It is characterized by the range of a ratio (L1/L2) with the dimension (L2) of the processed base which counters being 0.5-1.1.

[0019] Furthermore, the plasma treatment equipment of this invention generates the plasma within the reaction container which can be decompressed between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The distance d1 of the ground electrode and cathode electrode which are except the electrode holder holding a processed base or its base, are installed near the cathode and touch plasma generating space, It is characterized by the ratio (d1/d2) of the distance d2 between said processed bases or said electrode holders, and cathode electrodes being one or more.

[0020] In addition, the plasma-treatment equipment of this invention is plasma-treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base which the discharge frequency made generate the plasma between the cathode electrode which impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters, and has arrange on

an electrode within the reaction container which can be decompress, and is characterize by to cover with a dielectric a part or the whole on the cathode electrode surface where high-frequency power is impress.

[0021] Moreover, the plasma treatment equipment of this invention generates the plasma within the reaction container which can be decompressed between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. It is supposed that the configuration of a cathode electrode is cylindrical, and two or more cathode electrodes with which high-frequency power is impressed are divided in the die-length direction, and it is characterized by preparing the dielectric of the thickness which negates the inductance component of each cathode according to an impression frequency between each cathode.

[0022] Furthermore, the plasma treatment equipment of this invention generates the plasma within the reaction container which can be decompressed between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters.

It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. In the part which sees from the RF impression induction of the cathode electrode of plasma treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters, and counters the furthest cathode polar zone, the touch-down potential of a base It is characterized by taking.

[0023] The plasma-treatment equipment of this invention be plasma-treatment equipment which carry out the plasma treatment of the processed base which the discharge frequency made generate the plasma between the cathode electrode which impress 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counter, and have arrange on an electrode within the reaction container which can be decompress, and be characterize by to cover the space where plasma generating space touch ground shielding and said ground shielding with an insulating material.

[0024] The plasma treatment equipment of this invention generates the plasma within the reaction container which can be decompressed between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more

high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The cathode electrode of the plasma treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters at least The dimension of an one direction (L1), While arranging soft magnetic materials to the side which faces plasma generating space as ground shielding which makes a ratio (L1/L2) with the dimension (L2) of the processed base which counters the range of 0.5-1.1, and is installed around said cathode electrode It is characterized by arranging a non-magnetic material to the side which faces high-frequency power installation.

[0025] The plasma treatment equipment of this invention generates the plasma within the reaction container which can be decompressed between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The cathode electrode of the plasma

treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters at least The dimension of an one direction (L1), A ratio (L1/L2) with the dimension (L2) of the processed base which counters is made into the range of 0.5-1.1. The space where plasma generating space touches ground shielding installed around said cathode electrode, and said ground shielding with an insulating material And a bonnet, Furthermore, the distance d1 of the ground electrode and cathode which are installed near the cathode except the electrode holder holding said processed base or its base, and touch plasma generating space, It is characterized by the ratio (d1/d2) of the distance d2 between said processed bases, said electrode holders, and cathodes being one or more.

[0026] Moreover, the plasma treatment approach of this invention generates the plasma within the reaction container which can be decompressed between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is the plasma treatment approach which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The plasma impedance Zp and the

impedance Zc of a cathode electrode |Zc|/|Zp|<=5, With or the impedance Za of an electrode holder and the impedance Zc of a cathode electrode holding the impedance Zsh of ground shielding and this processed base which enclose a cathode electrode, and its base | It is characterized by filling Za|/|Zsh|<=1 and |Zc|/|Zsh|<=1.

[0027] The plasma treatment approach of this invention generates the plasma within the reaction container which can be decompressed between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. While arranging soft magnetic materials to the side which faces plasma generating space as ground shielding installed around the cathode electrode with which it is the plasma treatment approach which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode, and high-frequency power is impressed It is characterized by carrying out plasma treatment to the side which faces high-frequency power installation in the condition of having arranged the non-magnetic material.

[0028] The plasma treatment approach of this invention generates the plasma within the reaction container which can be decompressed between the cathode

electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is the plasma treatment approach which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The cathode electrode of the plasma treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters at least The dimension of an one direction (L1), It is characterized by carrying out plasma treatment of the ratio (L1/L2) with the dimension (L2) of the processed base which counters as range of 0.5-1.1.

[0029] The plasma treatment approach of this invention generates the plasma within the reaction container which can be decompressed between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The distance d1 of the ground electrode and cathode electrode which are except the electrode holder holding a processed base or its base, are installed near the cathode and touch plasma

generating space, It is characterized by making the ratio (d1/d2) of the distance d2 between said processed bases or said electrode holders, and cathode electrodes or more into one, and carrying out plasma treatment.

[0030] The plasma-treatment approach of this invention is the plasma-treatment approach which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base which the discharge frequency made generate the plasma between the cathode electrode which impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters, and has arrange on an electrode within the reaction container which can be decompress, and is characterize by to carry out plasma treatment of a part or the whole on the cathode electrode surface where high-frequency power is impress in the condition covered with the dielectric. [0031] The plasma treatment approach of this invention generates the plasma within the reaction container which can be decompressed between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is the plasma treatment approach which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. It is characterized by supposing that the configuration of a cathode electrode is cylindrical, dividing two or more

cathode electrodes with which high-frequency power is impressed in the die-length direction, preparing the dielectric of desired thickness between each cathode, and negating and carrying out plasma treatment of the inductance component of each cathode according to an impression frequency.

[0032] The plasma treatment approach of this invention generates the plasma within the reaction container which can be decompressed between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is the plasma treatment approach which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. In the part which sees from the RF impression induction of the cathode electrode of plasma treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters, and counters the furthest cathode polar zone, the touch-down potential of a base It is characterized by carrying out plasma treatment in the condition of having taken.

[0033] the plasma treatment approach of this invention be the plasma treatment approach which carry out the plasma treatment of the processed base which the

discharge frequency make generate the plasma between the cathode electrode which impress 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counter, and have arrange on an electrode within the reaction container which can be decompress, and be characterize by to carry out the plasma treatment of the space where plasma generating space touch ground shielding and said ground shielding in the condition covered with an insulating material.

[0034] The plasma treatment approach of this invention generates the plasma within the reaction container which can be decompressed between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is the plasma treatment approach which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The cathode electrode of the plasma treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters at least The dimension of an one direction (L1), While arranging soft magnetic materials to the side which faces plasma generating space as ground shielding which makes a ratio

(L1/L2) with the dimension (L2) of the processed base which counters the range of 0.5-1.1, and is installed around said cathode electrode It is characterized by carrying out plasma treatment to the side which faces high-frequency power installation in the condition of having arranged the non-magnetic material. [0035] The plasma treatment approach of this invention generates the plasma within the reaction container which can be decompressed between the cathode electrode with which a discharge frequency impresses 30MHz or more high-frequency power 300MHz or less, and the electrode which counters. It is plasma treatment equipment which carries out plasma treatment of the processed base arranged on an electrode. The cathode electrode of the plasma treatment equipment which has the cathode electrode with which high-frequency power is impressed, said cathode electrode, and the electrode which installs the processed base installed in the location which counters at least The dimension of an one direction (L1), A ratio (L1/L2) with the dimension (L2) of the processed base which counters is made into the range of 0.5-1.1. The space where plasma generating space touches ground shielding installed around said cathode electrode, and said ground shielding with an insulating material And a bonnet, Furthermore, the distance d1 of the ground electrode and cathode which are

installed near the cathode except the electrode holder holding said processed base or its base, and touch plasma generating space, It is characterized by the ratio (d1/d2) of the distance d2 between said processed bases, said electrode holders, and cathodes being one or more.

[0036]

[Example] Hereafter, this invention is explained using a drawing.

[0037] As a result of examining wholeheartedly the above-mentioned trouble in conventional equipment and a conventional approach, this invention persons systematized based on the easy high-frequency equivalent circuit about the relation between a discharge frequency and the heterogeneity of the plasma, and acquired knowledge about a means to attain equalization of the plasma treatment based on equalization and it of the plasma also in a discharge frequency higher than before. Hereafter, it explains below along the high-frequency equivalent circuit of drawing 22.

[0038] Plasma treatment is performed on said processed base by making the high-frequency power outputted from RF generator 151 impress and spread on the cathode electrode 152, and making the plasma 154 occur by the RF electric field between this cathode electrode and the processed base 153 which

counters. Under the present circumstances, it is as follows when that impedance is considered by making each above-mentioned component into a RF circuit.

- (a) Cathode electrode; if the impedance Zc of a cathode is used as the skin resistance component Rc and the inductance component Lc of a cathode, it will serve as Zc=Rc+jomegaLc.
- (b) Plasma; if the impedance of the plasma is used as the capacity component Cp of the ion sheath of a boundary with the pure resistance component Rp of the plasma, the plasma, a cathode electrode, and a processed base, it will serve as Zp=Rp+1-/jomegaCp.
- (c) Processed base; if the impedance of the processed base used as an anode electrode is used as the skin resistance component Ra and the inductance component La, it will serve as Za=Ra+jomegaLa. In addition, above, j is an imaginary unit and omega is the angular frequency of a RF.

[0039] By the way, although the cathode electrode surface product usually located in a counter electrode with large-area-izing of (1) processed substrate if the frequency of a RF is raised is also enlarged in plasma treatment equipment with the above configurations in terms of high-frequency equivalent circuit and a response is taken It becomes easy to decrease as the impedance Zc by the

inductance component Lc of a cathode electrode will also become large and the high-frequency voltage on a cathode will spread a cathode top from RF induction, if the discharge frequency (frequency of an RF generator) impressed to a cathode becomes high.

(2) Attenuation of the high-frequency voltage at the time of becoming easy to flow mostly [the plasma] and spreading a cathode top further rather than a cathode top, becomes large as the high frequency current raises a frequency, since the impedance Zp of the plasma which is in contact with the cathode electrode becomes small by 1/of the capacity impedance component jomegaCp as a frequency goes up.

[0040] Consequently, if a discharge frequency is raised, the plasma will also be omnipresence-ized by the nonuniformity of the high-frequency voltage on a cathode.

(3) The impedance between both becomes small as it has a capacity component between cathodes although the ground shielding 155 is installed in the circumference of the transmission line in order to transmit efficiently the high-frequency power from RF generator 151 to a cathode electrode as actual plasma treatment equipment is shown in drawing 22 and this ground shielding is

also usually electrically insulated with the cathode with the dielectric, and a frequency goes up. Similarly, ground shielding becomes small as it is in contact also with the plasma in many cases, and a discharge frequency goes up out of a transmission line sake [capacity-/ the impedance between plasma]. Moreover, even if it gives touch-down, insulation, or potential for a processed base, in the RF, it has a certain impedance (Zash) between grounds. When the impedance of a cathode and the part outside the transmission line of ground shielding becomes low rather than the impedance between a cathode and a processed base, or the impedance of a cathode here, In order that the high frequency current transmits the ground shielding exterior, it may flow to a ground, or the RF electric field of the circumference of ground shielding may become large and discharge may omnipresence-ize it to the circumference of ground shielding, The discharge on a cathode became weak relatively and it turned out that the problem of riser processing nonuniformity occurring [the plasma treatment rate near ground shielding] may arise.

[0041] It is shown by the result of having measured the above problem using the plasma-CVD equipment of drawing 23.

(a) The impedance of an electrode is influenced according to a discharge

frequency, electrode length, an electrode radius, and electrode construction material. The value of the skin resistance component Rc in each frequency is shown in a table 1.

[0042]

[A table 1]

表 1

表皮抵抗值Rc

| 材 質 | A1 | Си | Fe | SUS304 | 45 <i>K</i> -701 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| 抵抗値(100MHz)Ω | 3. 24E-02 | 2.58E-02 | 6.50E+00 | 1. 69E-01 | 6. 67E+00 |
| 抵抗値(50MHz)Ω | 2. 29E-04 | 1.83E-02 | 4. 60E+00 | 1. 19E-01 | 4. 72E+00 |
| 抵抗値(10MHz)Ω | 1. 03E-02 | 8. 17E-03 | 2. 06E+00 | 5. 33E-02 | 2. 11E+00 |

[0043] Moreover, a non-magnetic material electrode shows the impedance by the electrode length I and the 100MHz [in electrode radius a / 2] inductance component to drawing 13. The impedance Zc of this field is determined by the non-magnetic material with the impedance according almost to an inductance component.

[0044] However, when soft magnetic materials are used, the skin resistance component Rc becomes large and, as for an impedance Zc, "Zc=Rc+jomegaLc" shows being influenced.

(**) -- the measurement result of the plasma density distribution by the probe method in the center of inter-electrode is shown in <u>drawing 17</u> on the cathode electrode used as |Zc|=144ohm (100MHz).

[0045] The inclination for a plasma consistency to fall is seen as the plasma consistency between a cathode electrode and a counterelectrode has a high plasma consistency by the side of RF induction as shown in <u>drawing 17</u>, and it separates from induction. This shows the discharge nonuniformity by attenuation of propagation on the cathode of the high-frequency voltage accompanying the increment in the impedance Zc by the inductance component Lc of a cathode electrode.

(c) That is [it set the ratio (d1/d2) of the distance d2 of the distance d1 of a cathode electrode and a reaction container wall ground, a cathode electrode, and a counterelectrode to 0.5], the measurement result of the cathode in the case where a reaction vessel wall is close brought from a counterelectrode, and the plasma density distribution between counterelectrodes is shown in drawing 19.

[0046] Between cathode-reaction container walls, plasma luminescence reinforcement is strong, discharge has taken place strongly, viewing is also

influenced also for a plasma consistency of this discharge omnipresence here, and the nonuniformity of distribution is promoted more.

[0047] The nonuniformity of the above plasma consistency affects it to the thickness distribution on the base installed in the counter electrode of a cathode electrode so that it may see in drawing of thickness distribution of drawing 20, and it is shown that it is the cause which thickness distribution nonuniformity generates. With thickness distribution, it is defined as the ratio which broke the thickness on the base formed membranes by the maximum thickness here.

[0048] 13.56MHz currently conventionally used with the plasma-CVD equipment of the drawing 23 same as a comparison shows a measurement result. A cathode impedance, a plasma consistency, and the measurement result of thickness distribution are shown, respectively.

[0049] The electrode length I of the impedance by the inductance component in a nonmagnetic construction material electrode and the dependency of electrode radius a / 2 are shown in drawing 15. For example, when the electrode length I is set to 0.5m and electrode radius a / 2 are set to 0.04m, |Zc| is set to about 19.6 ohms in 13.56MHz by the cathode impedance whose |Zc| was about 144.3ohms in 100MHz, and it turns out that an impedance becomes small.

[0050] Moreover, the measurement result of the plasma density distribution by the probe method in the center of inter-electrode is shown in <u>drawing 18</u> on a cathode electrode.

[0051] As shown in <u>drawing 18</u>, the plasma consistency between a cathode electrode and a counterelectrode is almost uniform. In this, attenuation of propagation on the cathode of the high-frequency voltage accompanying the increment in the impedance Zc by the inductance component Lc of a cathode electrode shows what is hardly seen by 13.56MHz.

[0052] Therefore, it is desirable to use a non-magnetic material not using these soft magnetic materials to lessen decreasing a RF and transmit it. It is shown that it is desirable to use nonmagnetic material as construction material which constitutes ground shielding this [whose] served as high-frequency-discharge leakage prevention as for the side to which the side which the plasma touches transmits a RF on the other hand using soft magnetism material.

[0053] Moreover, there is no nonuniformity of the thickness distribution on the base installed in the counter electrode of a cathode electrode so that <u>drawing 21</u> might see, and an almost uniform thing is shown.

[0054] As shown above, on 13.56MHz and the discharge frequency of the near,

it does not become a problem, but these problems occur greatly by making a discharge frequency higher.

[0055] In order to measure whether these problems are influenced and become remarkable from any frequency, it discharges by 13.56MHz - 300MHz using the plasma-CVD equipment of drawing 23, and the result of having measured each plasma consistency nonuniformity to drawing 16 is shown. With plasma consistency nonuniformity, it is defined as the value which broke the difference of the maximum of a plasma consistency, and the minimum value by the average of a plasma consistency here.

[0056] As shown in <u>drawing 16</u>, it turns out that plasma consistency nonuniformity becomes **10% or more by about 30MHz, and attenuation of the high-frequency voltage by the impedance of the cathode electrode by the discharge frequency becomes remarkable. In addition, when the discharge frequency exceeded 300MHz, the design of the matching circuit of a RF became difficult, and transmission loss also became large, and it turned out that it is not practical.

[0057] Although it was about 30eV in 13.56MHz when the width of face of the energy of the ion which carries out incidence to a processed base was

measured, above about 15eV and 100MHz, it was about 10eV in 30MHz.

[0058] In the process using the incidence ion energy to a processed base, if an example is taken in the point that improvement in a controllability can be attained by making this energy width of face small, in a process 30MHz or more, this correlation will pose an important problem.

[0059] Then, this invention person etc. acquired the knowledge shown below as a means to solve ununiformity-ization by the RF power loss by these cathode impedance in 30MHz - 300MHz etc.

- (1) It should be thought that it is related to magnitude |Zc| of the impedance of a cathode electrode, magnitude |Zp| of a plasma impedance, magnitude |Za| of the impedance of the electrode which counters a cathode, and impedance magnitude |Zsh| of ground shielding installed near the cathode.
- (2) It should be thought that it is related to the plasma consistency Ne2 between ground electrodes other than the plasma consistency Ne1 between a cathode and a counterelectrode and a cathode electrode, and a counter electrode electrode (ground shielding, reaction vessel wall, etc.).
- (3) It should be thought that it is related to impedance adjustment in a cathode electrode, the plasma, and counterelectrode total.

It comes out.

[0060] Then, the inter-electrode plasma consistency nonuniformity to |Zc|/|Zp| was measured with the equipment of a configuration of being shown in drawing 23. Plasma impedance |Zp| is computed from the matching constant of the matching circuit of high-frequency power.

[0061] It turned out that plasma consistency nonuniformity becomes **10% or less on the conditions which become |Zc|/|Zp|<=5 as a result, and thickness nonuniformity also becomes **10% or less, and can attain the homogeneity of thickness distribution again.

[0062] Moreover, it turned out that plasma consistency nonuniformity becomes **10% or less on |Za|/|Zsh|<=1 and the conditions which become |Zc|/|Zsh|<=1 when the plasma consistency nonuniformity to |Za|/|Zsh| and |Zc|/|Zsh| is measured, and thickness nonuniformity also becomes **10% or less, and can attain the homogeneity of thickness distribution.

[0063] Moreover, when membranes were formed by [as fill uping the space during ground shielding other than a cathode electrode and a counter electrode electrode with the equipment shown in drawing 23 of Teflon as conditions which become Ne1 >=Ne2, preventing discharge compulsorily and having not

generated the plasma I and thickness nonuniformity was measured, it turned out that the homogeneity of **10% or less of thickness distribution can be attained. [0064] The place which measured the plasma consistency as d1<d2 in the distance d2 with the ground electrode which touches plasma space other than the inter-electrode distance d1 of a cathode electrode and its counterelectrode, a cathode electrode, and a counterelectrode similarly, It turned out that the relation of the plasma consistency Ne2 between ground electrodes other than the plasma consistency Ne1 between a cathode and a counterelectrode and a cathode electrode, and a counter electrode electrode (ground shielding) serves as Ne1>Ne2, thickness nonuniformity becomes **10% or less on this condition, and the homogeneity of thickness distribution can be attained again. [0065] Moreover, in order to make almost equal the impedance of a cathode

electrode impedance, a plasma impedance and a cathode electrode, and the electrode that counters in each part, it turned out that plasma density distribution becomes **10% or less by taking the ground potential induction of a counterelectrode in the most distant location from a part for the RF induction impressed to a cathode electrode, and thickness nonuniformity also becomes **10% or less, and can attain the homogeneity of thickness distribution.

[0066] As mentioned above, the thing for which |Zsh| is controlled by the ground shielding material configuration near the (a) cathode electrode as a means to acquire the uniform plasma ([Zsh] is enlarged), (b) Relation between cathode electrode length and counterelectrode length is made suitable (magnitude |Zc| of a cathode electrode impedance is made small). And Ne1> Relation with distance with the ground electrode which touches plasma space other than the inter-electrode distance of achievement, (c) cathode electrode, and its counterelectrode, a cathode electrode, and a counterelectrode in Ne2 is made suitable (Ne1> plasma density distribution etc. improves by Ne2), (d) Magnitude |Zp| of the plasma impedance by covering a cathode electrode surface with a dielectric is controlled (IZpl is enlarged), (e) -- dividing of the capacity component Cc which offsets the inductance component Lc of a cathode electrode, and controlling magnitude |Zc| of a cathode electrode impedance (|Zc| -- it being made small) -- (f) -- making relation of the introductory location of ground potential suitable at the RF list of a cathode electrode and the electrode which counters (magnitude |Zc| of a cathode electrode impedance --) It is each part and magnitude |Zp| of a plasma impedance and magnitude |Za| of a counterelectrode impedance are made equal. The improvement in plasma

density distribution, (g) Establishing-means to intercept ground shielding and plasma generating space near cathode electrode (Ne1> plasma density distribution etc. improves by Ne2) ** can be considered.

[0067] Here, JP,4-212167,A is indicated as a patent which limits the ratio of the die length of the cathode electrode length of this invention, and the base formed membranes. As a technique of preventing the image defect of the deposited film by the pulverized coal generated during membrane formation, said patent As the membrane formation approach to cylinder-like the base formed membranes It is the approach of limiting the relation of the die length of the overall length which set the electrode holder of the conductor in which desorption is possible up and down of the base formed membranes for this formed membranes base length and this electrode-holder length, and the counterelectrode overall length which is a cathode electrode, and preventing ununiformity discharge in the edge of this counterelectrode and this base formed membranes.

[0068] However, when said patent carries out the failure of pressure as generating prevention of pulverized coal, in 13.56MHz, the trouble when there is no recognition of as opposed to [take into consideration and] a discharge frequency which also generates the problem that a membrane formation rate

also falls and a discharge frequency is made high is not taken into consideration, and these patents differ essence.

[0069] Although the above-mentioned explanation was performed by taking up the plasma-CVD equipment which is common plasma treatment equipment as an example, sputtering, etching, etc. which are other plasma treatment processes have the same trouble, and the solution approach of the trouble is the same as the case of plasma-CVD equipment, and a basic target.

[0070] Therefore, this invention is not limited only to plasma-CVD equipment.

[0071] Moreover, it cannot be overemphasized by not being limited to the equipment and the approach which were mentioned above being enforced by each technique independent, and enforcing two or more technique simultaneously that much more effectiveness can be increased. Moreover, this invention does not need to say that deformation and combination are suitably made within the limits of this invention, either, and is not limited to the example explained below.

[0072] In addition, the magnitude of the impedance of the cathode electrode of this invention of being referred to as 150ohms or less is desirable on the homogeneity of discharge.

[0073] Hereafter, a concrete example and the example of a comparison are given and this invention is explained in more detail.

[0074] in addition, the thing limited to the example this invention is explained to be below — it is not — within the limits of the main point of this invention — suitably — deformation — possible — moreover, the following examples — or it being also possible to combine the main point's of this invention suitably within the limits of the main point of this invention is not saying.

[0075] (An example 1 and example 1 of a comparison) The a-Si film was formed on the base 3 formed membranes on the following membrane formation conditions (1) as the discharge frequency of 50MHz, and 100MHz using the plasma-CVD equipment of this invention shown in drawing 1. In addition, in drawing 1, since the same sign as the sign shown in drawing 23 is as drawing 23 having explained, it omits about the explanation.

[0076] First, based on drawing 14, the cathode electrode length I was changed to the plasma impedance Zp in each frequency, relation of the 50MHz cathode electrode impedance Zc was respectively made into |Zc|/|Zp|=5 and the conditions which become |Zc|/|Zp|=1, and thickness nonuniformity was measured.

[0077] Moreover, based on drawing 14, the cathode electrode length I was changed on the same membrane formation conditions (1), and the comparative experiments of thickness nonuniformity were conducted on |Zc|/|Zp|=10 and the conditions which become |Zc|/|Zp|=20.

[0078] It became by |Zc|/|Zp|=5, and as a result, thickness nonuniformity became about **5% by |Zc/Zp|=1 about **10%, when a frequency was 50MHz. As comparative experiments, except having been referred to as |Zc|/|Zp|=10 and |Zc|/|Zp|=2, when conditions were made the same and thickness nonuniformity was measured, it became about **20% and about **30%, respectively.

[0079] However, according to the result of having measured the membraneous quality of the a-Si film selectively [each film / the effect only of distribution is large and] in the state of the said thickness, even if it used membraneous quality for the electrophotography photo conductor, the line sensor for an image input, etc., it was what can be equal to practical use enough.

[0080] Moreover, when the mussel made into the discharge frequency of 100MHz formed the a-Si film on the same base formed membranes on the same conditions, the almost same result was obtained.

[0081] It is possible to be able to solve the problem of thickness nonuniformity,

even if a discharge frequency becomes high by performing an equipment configuration on the conditions which become the impedance and plasma impedance of a cathode electrode |Zc|/|Zp|<=5 so that the above result may show, and to optimize the equipment configuration by the discharge frequency further.

Membrane formation conditions (1)

- Material gas ... [... SiH4 350sccmH2 350sccm and pressure ... 0.25torr and base temperature ... 310 degree C and high-frequency power ... 0.5W/cm2[0082]] SiH4 and carrier gas ... H2 and quantity of gas flow (An example 2 and example 2 of a comparison) The a-Si film was formed on the base formed membranes on the following membrane formation conditions (2) as the discharge frequency of 50MHz, and 100MHz using the plasma-CVD equipment shown in drawing 2 . In drawing 2 , since what is shown with the same sign as the sign of drawing 23 is the same as what was explained by drawing 23 , the explanation is omitted.

[0083] In addition, in <u>drawing 2</u>, each of gas ports where 15 was prepared in the cathode electrode, and things shown by 21 and 22 is shielding members.

[0084] Moreover, in drawing 2, aluminum was examined as a shielding member

22 which faced the RF installation side, using iron as a shielding member 21 which faced the side which touched the plasma.

[0085] It serves as the comparison with the conditions of this invention. By 50MHz, [Za]/[Zsh]=10, [Za]/[Zsh]=2, [Za]/[Zsh]=1, [Za]/[Zsh]=0.5, the becoming conditions and [Zc]/[Zsh]=10, [Zc]/[Zsh]=2, [Zc]/[Zsh]=1, [When thickness nonuniformity was measured by the above mentioned approach on the conditions which become Zc]/[Zsh]=0.5, it became as it is shown in a table 2. [0086] As shown in a table 2, it was the thickness nonuniformity which thickness nonuniformity becomes in 10% by |Za]/[Zsh]<=1 and |Zc]/[Zsh]<=1, and can be used for practical use.

[0087] In addition, when each film measured the membraneous quality of the a-Si film selectively [the effect only of distribution is large and] in the state of the said thickness, also in which conditions, membraneous quality was what has by making it an electrophotography photo conductor, the line sensor for an image input, etc., and can be equal to practical use enough.

[0088] Except having set the discharge frequency to 100MHz, when it was made the same as the above-mentioned conditions and the a-Si film was formed on the same base formed membranes, the almost same result was obtained.

[0089] It is possible to be able to solve the problem of the thickness nonuniformity by a discharge frequency becoming high, and to optimize the equipment configuration by the discharge frequency further by performing an equipment configuration to the impedance and plasma impedance of a cathode electrode on |Za|/|Zsh|<=1 and the conditions which become |Zc|/|Zsh|<=1 so that the above result may show.

[0090] Membrane formation conditions (2)

- Material gas ... [... SiH4 450sccmH2 450sccm and pressure ... 0.2torr and base temperature ... 310 degree C and high-frequency power ... 0.5W/cm2[0091]] SiH4 and carrier gas ... H2 and quantity of gas flow

[A table 2]

表 2 膜厚ムラ計測(±%)

| Za / Zsh | Zc / Zsh | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| | 0.5 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | | |
| 0.5 | 4 | 9 | 13 | 20 | | |
| 1.0 | 8 | 10 | 21 | 31 | | |
| 2.0 | 121 | 18 | 24 | 35 | | |
| 3.0 | 17 | 23 | 32 | 43 | | |

| Za | :カソード対向電極インピーダンスの大きさ | Zc | :カソード電極インピーダンスの大きさ

| Zsh | : カソード近傍アースシールドのインピーダンスの大きさ

[0092] (Example 3) The a-Si film was formed on the base formed membranes on the following membrane formation conditions (3) as the discharge frequency of 50MHz, and 100MHz using the cylinder coaxial-type plasma-CVD equipment shown in drawing 3. In drawing 2, since what is shown with the same sign as the sign of drawing 23 is the same as what was explained by drawing 23, the explanation is omitted. In addition, in drawing 3, ground shielding for cathode electrode 2 in 14 and 16 are the insulating materials for capacity coupling. [0093] The cathode electrode 2 is divided into two or more electrodes, and is installed by turns in the distance which becomes the capacity which negates the inductance component of two or more cathode electrodes of each through a quartz ring by making each into the insulating material 16 for capacity coupling. Thereby, the impedance of the cathode electrode 2 can be made into min on the discharge frequency to wish. The plasma impedance was about 10ohms in about 40 ohms and 100MHz on the discharge frequency of 50MHz as a result of measurement.

[0094] When it became about **8% when thickness nonuniformity was measured by the above mentioned approach, and the membraneous quality of

the a-Si film was measured, membraneous quality was what can fully be used for an electrophotography photo conductor, the line sensor for an image input, etc.

[0095] Except having set the discharge frequency to 100MHz, when the a-Si film was formed on the same base formed membranes according to the same conditions as the above-mentioned conditions, the almost same result was obtained.

[0096] Since the range of the magnitude of a cathode electrode impedance can be extended by making small the capacity component by the sheath on a cathode electrode, and enlarging magnitude of a result plasma impedance so that the above result may show, it is possible to be able to solve the problem of the thickness nonuniformity by a discharge frequency becoming high, and to optimize the equipment configuration by the discharge frequency further.

[0097] Membrane formation conditions (3)

- Material gas ... [... SiH4 450sccmH2 450sccm and pressure ... 0.2torr and base temperature ... 310 degree C and high-frequency power ... 0.5W/cm2[0098]] SiH4 and carrier gas ... H2 and quantity of gas flow (An example 4 and example 3 of a comparison) While performing ground potential

induction of the cylindrical base currently kept in direct-current potential to ground potential as a discharge frequency of 100MHz to a part for the high-frequency power induction by the side of a cathode in the furthest part to cathode electrode RF induction using the plasma-CVD equipment shown in drawing 4, the a-Si film was formed on the base formed membranes on the following membrane formation conditions (4). In drawing 4, since what is shown with the same sign as drawing 23 is the same as what was explained in drawing 23, explanation is omitted. Setting to drawing 4, ground shielding for [12] cathode electrode 2 in the insulating material for bases and 14 and 15 are the gas ports established in the cathode electrode. Moreover, the a-Si film was similarly formed on the base formed membranes except having made it these membrane formation conditions by the case where ground potential induction of the cylindrical base currently kept in direct-current potential to ground potential to a part for the high-frequency power induction by the side of a cathode, using the plasma-CVD equipment of drawing 24 as a comparison is performed in the nearest part to cathode electrode RF induction.

[0099] When thickness nonuniformity was measured by the approach described above with the monograph affair, the case of being the furthest became about

**30% about **10%, when the nearest.

[0100] When each film measured the membraneous quality of the a-Si film selectively in the part of the thickness condition that the effect only of distribution is large and the same, membraneous quality was what uses for an electrophotography photo conductor, the line sensor for an image input, etc., and can be used enough.

[0101] Except having set the discharge frequency to 50MHz, when the a-Si film was formed on the same base formed membranes like the above-mentioned conditions, the case of being the furthest became about **10% about **8%, when the nearest. Thus, especially in this example, it turned out that a result with the high effectiveness of thickness nonuniformity is obtained, so that the discharge frequency was large.

[0102] By combining with ground potential the ground potential induction of the cylindrical base currently kept in direct-current potential to ground potential to a part for the high-frequency power induction by the side of a cathode in the furthest part to cathode electrode RF induction, thickness nonuniformity can be improved, the effectiveness has a highly larger still discharge frequency a forge fire, and it is possible to optimize the equipment configuration by the discharge

frequency so that the above result may show.

[0103] Membrane formation conditions (4)

- Material gas ... [... SiH4 450sccmH2 450sccm and pressure ... 0.2torr and base temperature ... 310 degree C and high-frequency power ... 0.5W/cm2[0104]] SiH4 and carrier gas ... H2 and quantity of gas flow (An example 5 and example 4 of a comparison) The a-Si film was formed on the base formed membranes on the following membrane formation conditions (5) as a discharge frequency of 100MHz using the plasma-CVD equipment shown in drawing 5 . In drawing 5 , since the same sign as drawing 23 was explained in drawing 23 , it omits explanation.

[0105] In addition, were maintained at ground potential near the cathode electrode 2 on the occasion of membrane formation. The ratio between the inter-electrode distance d2 of the distance d1 with the ground potential part (usually the reaction container 1 or cathode electrode shielding 6) of the minimum distance except a base 3, said base 3, and the cathode electrode 2, It was made to change so that value ** of d1/d2 may be set to d1/d2=0.5, d1/d2=0.9, d1/d2=1, and d1/d2=2.

[0106] When thickness nonuniformity was measured by the approach which

described above the a-Si film produced on condition that the above-mentioned d1/d2, it became about **30%, about **12%, about **10%, and about **7% at order, respectively. That is, when the value of d1/d2 becomes one or more, it turns out that thickness nonuniformity decreases.

[0107] Each film had the large effect only of distribution, and when the membraneous quality of the a-Si film was selectively measured about the film of the same thickness part, membraneous quality was what uses for an electrophotography photo conductor device, the line sensor for an image input, etc., and can be used enough.

[0108] Except having set the discharge frequency to 50MHz, when the a-Si film was formed on the same base formed membranes like the above-mentioned conditions, the almost same result was obtained.

[0109] It is possible to be able to solve the problem of the thickness nonuniformity by a discharge frequency becoming high, and to optimize the equipment configuration by the discharge frequency further by being referred to as d1/d2 >=1 in the inter-electrode distance d2 of the distance d1 with the ground potential part (a vacuum tub and cathode electrode shielding) of the minimum distance except the base maintained at ground potential near the

cathode, said base, and a cathode electrode so that the above result may show.

[0110] Membrane formation conditions (5)

- Material gas ... [... SiH4 350sccmH2 350sccm and pressure ... 0.25torr and base temperature ... 310 degree C and high-frequency power ... 0.5W/cm2[0111]] SiH4 and carrier gas ... H2 and quantity of gas flow (An example 6 and example 5 of a comparison) The a-Si film was formed on the base formed membranes on the following membrane formation conditions (6), having set the ratio (L1/L2) of the dimension (L1) of the cylinder shaft orientations of a cathode electrode, and the dimension (L2) of the cylinder shaft orientations of the base formed membranes to 1.0, and having used the oscillation frequency (discharge frequency) of an RF generator as 100MHz using the plasma-CVD equipment shown in drawing 6. In drawing 6, since the same sign as drawing 23 was explained in drawing 23, it omits explanation.

[0112] When thickness nonuniformity was measured by the approach which described the formed a-Si film above, it was about **8%.

[0113] Moreover, the membraneous quality of the formed a-Si film had property sufficient as a-Si film used for an electrophotography photo conductor device, the line sensor for an image input, etc.

[0114] The proportion of the cylinder shaft orientations of a cathode electrode and the base formed membranes is set to 2.0 using the plasma-CVD equipment of drawing 23 for the comparison with a conventional method. Although the thickness nonuniformity in the case of 13.56MHz high frequency discharge was about **10% and the average rate of sedimentation was 5 (micrometer/hour) when the a-Si film was formed on the base formed membranes on membrane formation conditions (6) using the RF generator (13.56MHz and 105MHz) When the a-Si film was formed on the same conditions except having set the discharge frequency to 100MHz and thickness nonuniformity was measured similarly, thickness nonuniformity was about **30%.

[0115] It is possible by setting the ratio (L1/L2) of the dimension (L1) of the cylinder shaft orientations of a cathode electrode, and the dimension (L2) of the cylinder shaft orientations of the base formed membranes to 1.0 to be able to solve the problem of the thickness nonuniformity by a discharge frequency becoming high, and to optimize the equipment configuration by the discharge frequency further so that the above result may show.

[0116] Membrane formation conditions (6)

- Material gas ... [... SiH4 350sccmH2 350sccm and pressure ... 0.25torr and

base temperature ... 310 degree C and high-frequency power ... 0.5W/cm2[0117]] SiH4 and carrier gas ... H2 and quantity of gas flow (An example 7 and example 6 of a comparison) The a-Si film was formed on the base formed membranes on the following membrane formation conditions (7) using the plasma-CVD equipment shown in drawing 7, having used the discharge frequency as 50MHz. In drawing 7, since the same sign as drawing 23 was explained in drawing 23, it omits explanation. Moreover, ground shielding for cathode electrode 2 in 14 and 15 are gas ports.

[0118] In <u>drawing 7</u>, the space where plasma generating space touches the ground shielding 14 and the ground shielding 14 is covered with the quartz.

[0119] When thickness nonuniformity was measured the same with having described above the a-Si film formed using the equipment shown in drawing 7, the thickness nonuniformity of the formed a-Si film was about **9%.

[0120] When the a-Si film was similarly formed on the following membrane formation conditions (7) to it except having considered as the condition that the ground shielding 14 was exposed except having removed said quartz using the plasma-CVD equipment of <u>drawing 7</u> and thickness nonuniformity was measured, thickness nonuniformity was about **30%.

[0121] Its effect only of distribution was large, and when each film measured the membraneous quality of the a-Si film selectively in the same thickness part of the a-Si film formed with which equipment, it was what can also use enough the membraneous quality of the a-Si film formed with which equipment for an electrophotography photo conductor device, the line sensor for an image input, etc.

[0122] Except having set the discharge frequency to 100MHz, when the a-Si film was similarly formed on the same base formed membranes, the almost same result was obtained.

[0123] It is possible to be able to solve the problem of the thickness nonuniformity by a discharge frequency becoming high, and to optimize the equipment configuration by the discharge frequency further by covering the space where plasma generating space touches ground shielding and ground shielding with an insulating material so that the above result may show.

[0124] Membrane formation conditions (7)

- Material gas ... [... SiH4 450sccmH2 450sccm and pressure ... 0.2torr and base temperature ... 310 degree C and high-frequency power ... 0.5W/cm2[0125]] SiH4 and carrier gas ... H2 and quantity of gas flow (An

example 8 and example 7 of a comparison) The a-Si film was formed on the base formed membranes on the following membrane formation conditions (8) using the plasma-CVD equipment shown in <u>drawing 8</u>, having used the discharge frequency as 50MHz. In <u>drawing 8</u>, since the thing of the same sign as <u>drawing 23</u> is the same, it omits explanation. Moreover, in <u>drawing 8</u>, it is insulator covering with which ground shielding for cathode electrode 2 in 14 and 15 were prepared in the gas port, and 17 was prepared on the cathode electrode 3. The front face of the cathode electrode 2 is covered with quartz covering made into 20% of numerical apertures as insulator covering 17 so that it may be illustrated by drawing 8.

[0126] When the thickness nonuniformity of the a-Si film formed using the plasma-CVD equipment shown in <u>drawing 8</u> was measured by the approach same with having described above, thickness nonuniformity was about **10%.

[0127] Moreover, in the plasma-CVD equipment of <u>drawing 8</u>, when the a-Si film was formed on the same membrane formation conditions except having removed said insulator covering 17 and thickness nonuniformity was measured similarly, thickness nonuniformity was about 30%.

[0128] The a-Si film formed with each equipment had the large effect only of

distribution, and when the membraneous quality of the a-Si film was selectively measured in the same thickness part, membraneous quality was enough for the activity of an electrophotography photo conductor device, the line sensor for an image input, etc.

[0129] Moreover, except having set the discharge frequency to 100MHz, when the a-Si film was similarly formed on the same base formed membranes, the almost same result was obtained.

[0130] Furthermore, when the whole cathode electrode top was covered with the insulator covering 17, the a-Si film was able to be similarly formed without thickness nonuniformity.

[0131] the above result shows -- as -- a cathode electrode top -- a part -- ** -- the whole -- a dielectric (insulator) -- a wrap -- it is possible to be able to solve the problem of the thickness nonuniformity by a discharge frequency becoming high by things, and to optimize the equipment configuration by the discharge frequency further.

[0132] Membrane formation conditions (8)

- Material gas ... [... SiH4 450sccmH2 450sccm and pressure ... 0.2torr and base temperature ... 310 degree C and high-frequency power ...

0.5W/cm2[0133]] SiH4 and carrier gas ... H2 and quantity of gas flow (Example 9) Using the plasma-CVD equipment shown in <u>drawing 9</u>, the ratio (L1/L2) of the dimension (L1) of the cylinder shaft orientations of a cathode electrode and the dimension (L2) of the cylinder shaft orientations of the base formed membranes was set to 1.0, the discharge frequency was set to 100MHz, and the a-Si film was formed on the base formed membranes on the following membrane formation conditions (9). In <u>drawing 9</u>, since the same sign as <u>drawing 23</u> was explained in <u>drawing 23</u>, it omits explanation. Moreover, in <u>drawing 9</u>, 15 is a gas port and 21 and 22 are shielding material.

[0134] In addition, the shielding material 21 which faced the side to which the shielding material 22 which faced the RF installation side touched aluminum and the plasma formed the a-Si film to the base formed membranes as iron, and thickness nonuniformity was measured similarly. Consequently, the thickness nonuniformity of the formed a-Si film was about **3%. Moreover, the membraneous quality of the formed a-Si film was what has property sufficient as a-Si film used for an electrophotography photo conductor device, the line sensor for an image input, etc.

[0135] Moreover, except having set the discharge frequency to 100MHz, when

the a-Si film was formed on the same base formed membranes on the same conditions, the almost same result was obtained.

[0136] The problem of the thickness nonuniformity by a discharge frequency becoming high can be solved, and it is still more possible to optimize the equipment configuration by the discharge frequency so that the above result may show.

[0137] Membrane formation conditions (9)

- Material gas ... [... SiH4 450sccmH2 450sccm and pressure ... 0.2torr and base temperature ... 310 degree C and high-frequency power ... 0.5W/cm2[0138]] SiH4 and carrier gas ... H2 and quantity of gas flow (Example 10) Using the plasma-CVD equipment shown in drawing 10, the ratio (L1/L2) of the dimension (L1) of the cylinder shaft orientations of a cathode electrode and the dimension (L2) of the cylinder shaft orientations of the base formed membranes was set to 1.0, the discharge frequency was set to 100MHz, and the a-Si film was formed to the base formed membranes on the following membrane formation conditions (10). In addition, in drawing 10, since the thing of the same sign as drawing 23 is the same as what was explained by drawing 23, explanation is omitted. Moreover, in drawing 10, ground shielding for cathode

electrode 2 in 14 and 19 are insulator coverings. In <u>drawing 10</u>, the space of the cathode electrode 2, ground shielding 14 other than formed membranes base inter-electrode 3, and plasma generating space which contacts with the quartz which is the insulator covering 19 A bonnet, It was referred to as d1/d2=1 in the inter-electrode distance d2 of the distance d1 with the ground potential part (the reaction container 1 and cathode electrode shielding 14) of the minimum distance except the base 3 maintained at the ground potential which is installed near the cathode electrode 2 and touches plasma generating space, said base, and a cathode electrode.

[0139] The a-Si film formed by the equipment shown in drawing 10 was formed to the base formed membranes, and thickness nonuniformity was measured similarly. The thickness nonuniformity of the a-Si film formed as a result was about **3%. Moreover, the membraneous quality of the formed a-Si film was what has sufficient property to use it for an electrophotography photo conductor device, the line sensor for an image input, etc.

[0140] Moreover, except having set the discharge frequency to 100MHz, when the a-Si film was formed on the same base formed membranes on the same conditions, the almost same result was obtained.

[0141] It is possible to be able to solve the problem of the thickness nonuniformity by a discharge frequency becoming high, and to optimize the equipment configuration by the discharge frequency further so that the above result may show.

[0142] Membrane formation conditions (10)

- Material gas ... [... SiH4 450sccmH2 450sccm and pressure ... 0.2torr and temperature ... 310 degree C and high-frequency power 0.5W/cm2[0143]] SiH4 and carrier gas ... H2 and quantity of gas flow (Example 11) Using the plasma etching system of this invention shown in drawing 11, the discharge frequency was set to 50MHz, and etching processing of the a-Si film was carried out on the following etching conditions (1), having used the aluminum metal as the etching mask. In addition, in drawing 10, since the thing of the same sign as drawing 23 is the same as what was explained by drawing 23, explanation is omitted. Moreover, 52 is the electrode holder of a substrate 3. [0144] As shown in drawing 12, the etching substance has at least the a-Si layer 1202 formed on the monotonous substrates 1201 with which the front face was made into insulation, such as glass, the a-Si layer (contact layer) 1203 of n mold formed on this a-Si layer 1202, and the aluminum metal layer 1204 used as an electrode, and carried out etching clearance of the a-Si layer 1203 of n mold of the part with which the aluminum metal layer 1204 is not covered. In addition, the a-Si layer 1203 of the above-mentioned n mold is removed, and an etching substance uses said aluminum metal layer 1204 as the electrode which counters, and serves as a photosensor which makes the field where the inter-electrode n type of a-Si layer 1203 was removed an optical incidence field.

[0145] First, based on drawing 14, the cathode electrode length I was changed for the relation of the 50MHz cathode electrode impedance Zc to the plasma impedance Zp in 50MHz, and etching nonuniformity was measured as |Zc|/|Zp|=5 and conditions which become |Zc|/|Zp|=1, respectively. Here, it is written as etching nonuniformity with the value which gave ** to one half of the values which broke the difference of the maximum of the etching depth of an etching substance, and the minimum value by the average etching depth.

[0146] Consequently, at the time of |Zc|/|Zp|=5, when etching nonuniformity was about **10% and |Zc|/|Zp|=1, etching nonuniformity became about **4%.

[0147] Moreover, when etched on the following etching conditions (1) except having changed the electrode length I as a comparison based on drawing 14, and having been referred to as |Zc|/|Zp|=10 and |Zc|/|Zp|=20, etching

nonuniformity became about **15% and about **20% at order, respectively.

[0148] Similarly, except having set the discharge frequency to 100MHz, when etched on the above-mentioned conditions, the almost same result as the above-mentioned result was obtained.

[0149] In addition, when the above-mentioned a-Si layer of an etching substance was formed by the equipment and the approach which were shown in the above-mentioned examples 1-10, the thickness nonuniformity of an a-Si layer was extremely excellent also in the property as a photosensor very few. Especially in the case of a long sensor, there is no property nonuniformity which poses a problem in the die-length direction, and it was extremely excellent in it. [0150] It is possible to be able to solve the problem of the etching nonuniformity by a discharge frequency becoming high, and to optimize the equipment configuration by the discharge frequency further so that the above result may show.

[0151] Etching conditions (1)

- Etching gas ... CF4+O2 and quantity of gas flow ... CF4 100sccmO2 200sccm and pressure ... 0.03torr and high-frequency power ... 0.1 W/cm2 and the cooling approach ... Water cooling (20 degrees C)

[0152]

[Effect of the Invention] According to the plasma treatment equipment and the approach of this invention, it becomes possible to perform equalization of a plasma consistency and thickness distribution equalization with a 30MHz or more frequency [discharge] of 300MHz or less near the cathode electrode especially on a discharge frequency higher than 13.56MHz. Especially, it makes a discharge frequency high, the period of membrane formation, examination of the etching approach, a prototype, and development is shortened it not only can perform reduction of a running cost and reduction of processing cost of raising processing speed, but, and optimization of an equipment configuration and an approach is attained for a short period of time.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the structure illustration of the plasma-CVD equipment which carried out this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the structure illustration of the plasma-CVD equipment which

carried out this invention.

[Drawing 3] It is the structure illustration of the plasma-CVD equipment which carried out this invention.

[Drawing 4] It is the structure illustration of the plasma-CVD equipment which carried out this invention.

[Drawing 5] It is the structure illustration of the plasma-CVD equipment which carried out this invention.

[Drawing 6] It is the structure illustration of the plasma-CVD equipment which carried out this invention.

[Drawing 7] It is the structure illustration of the plasma-CVD equipment which carried out this invention.

[Drawing 8] It is the structure illustration of the plasma-CVD equipment which carried out this invention.

[Drawing 9] It is the structure illustration of the plasma-CVD equipment which carried out this invention.

[Drawing 10] It is the structure illustration of the plasma-CVD equipment which carried out this invention.

[Drawing 11] It is the structure illustration of the plasma-CVD equipment which

carried out this invention.

[Drawing 12] It is a typical sectional view for explaining the configuration of an etching substance.

[Drawing 13] It is a graph for explaining the impedance characteristic of a cathode electrode.

[Drawing 14] It is a graph for explaining the impedance characteristic of a cathode electrode.

[Drawing 15] It is a graph for explaining the impedance characteristic of a cathode electrode.

[Drawing 16] It is drawing for explaining the plasma consistency nonuniformity to a discharge frequency.

[Drawing 17] It is drawing for explaining the plasma density distribution near the cathode.

[Drawing 18] It is drawing for explaining the plasma density distribution near the cathode.

[Drawing 19] It is drawing for explaining the plasma density distribution near the cathode.

[Drawing 20] It is drawing for explaining the discharge frequency dependent of

thickness distribution.

[Drawing 21] It is drawing for explaining the discharge frequency dependent of thickness distribution.

[Drawing 22] It is drawing for explaining a high-frequency equivalent circuit.

[Drawing 23] It is the structure illustration of conventional plasma-CVD equipment.

[Drawing 24] It is the structure illustration of the plasma-CVD equipment for the comparison of this invention.

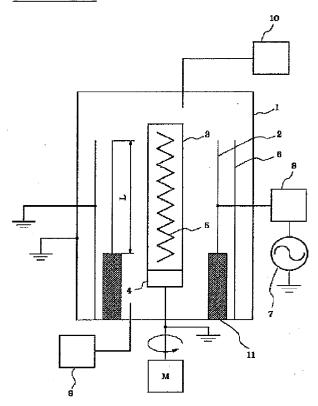
[Description of Notations]

- 1 Reaction Container
- 2 Cathode Electrode
- 3 Base Formed Membranes
- 4 Rolling Mechanism
- 5 Heating Heater
- 6 Ground Shielding
- 7 RF Generator
- 8 Matching Circuit
- 9 Evacuation Means

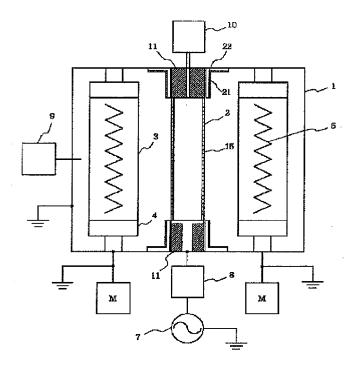
| 10 Gas Supply Means |
|--|
| 11 Insulating Material |
| 12 Insulating Material for Bases |
| 13 Spacer |
| 14 Ground Shielding for Cathode Electrodes |
| 15 Gas Port |
| 16 Insulating Material for Capacity Coupling |
| 17 Insulator Covering on Cathode Electrode |
| 18 Insulator Covering on Ground Shielding |
| 21 Ground Shielding for Nonmagnetic Material Cathode Electrodes |
| 22 Ground Shielding for Soft Magnetism Material Cathode Electrodes |
| 151 RF Generator |
| 152 Cathode Electrode |
| 153 Processed Base |
| 154 Plasma |
| 155 Ground Shielding |
| DRAWINGS |

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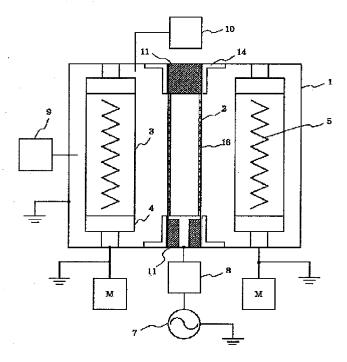
[Drawing 1]



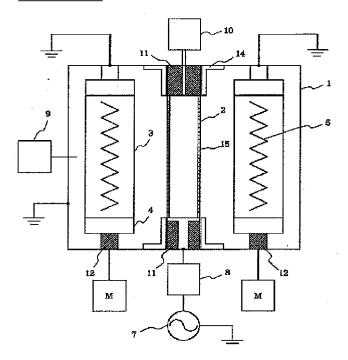
[Drawing 2]



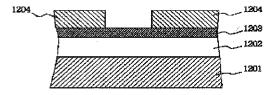
[Drawing 3]



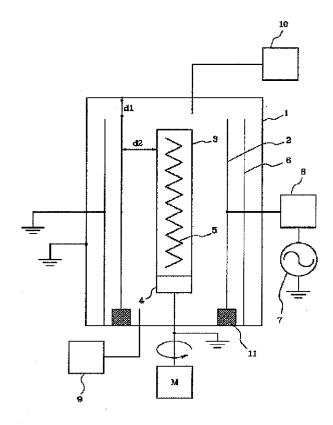
[Drawing 4]



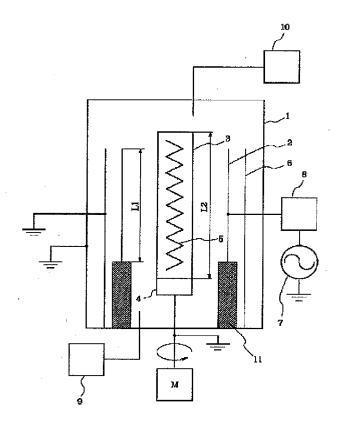
[Drawing 12]



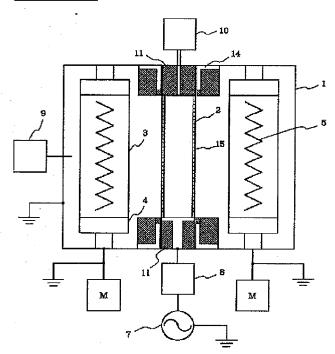
[Drawing 5]



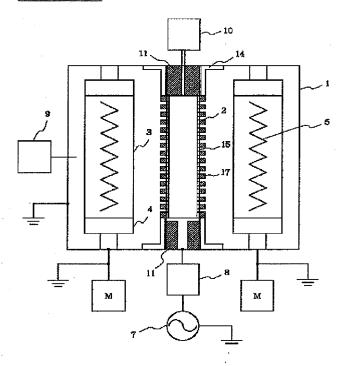
[Drawing 6]



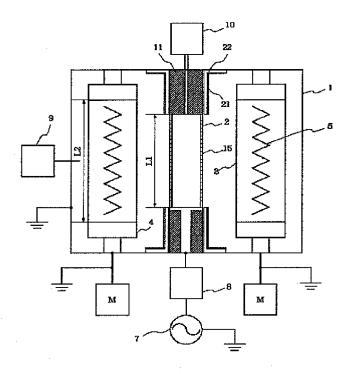
[Drawing 7]



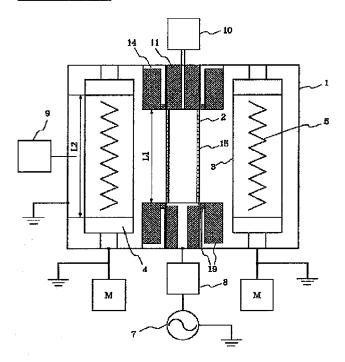
[Drawing 8]



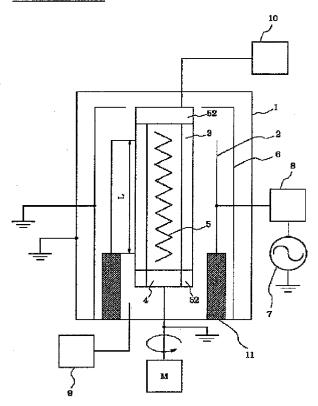
[Drawing 9]



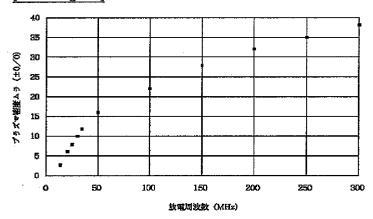
[Drawing 10]



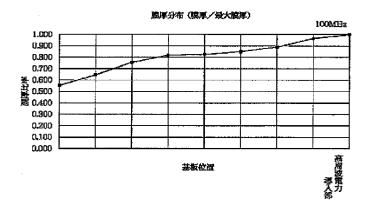
[Drawing 11]



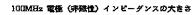
[Drawing 16]

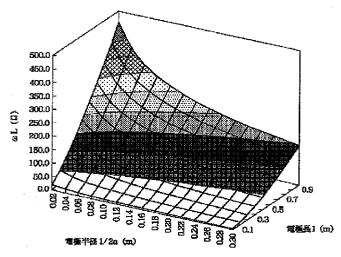


[Drawing 20]



[Drawing 13]

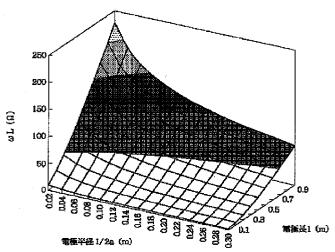




| 450.0 - 500.0 400.0 - 450.0 350.0 - 400.0 300.0 - 350.0 250.0 - 200.0 300.0 - 250.0 150.0 - 200.0 100.0 - 150.0 50.0 - 100.0 | | |
|--|-----------|---------------|
| 350.0 - 400.0 300.0 - 350.0 250.0 - 300.0 200.0 - 250.0 150.0 - 200.0 100.0 - 150.0 50.0 - 180.0 | | 450.0 - 500.0 |
| 300.0 - 350.0 250.0 - 300.0 200.0 - 250.0 150.0 - 200.0 100.0 - 150.0 50.0 - 180.0 | | 400.0 - 450.0 |
| 250.0 - 300.0 200.0 - 250.0 150.0 - 200.0 100.0 - 150.0 50.0 - 190.0 | 23 | 350.0 - 400.0 |
| 200.0 - 250.0 150.0 - 200.0 100.0 - 150.0 50.0 - 190.0 | XX | 300.0 - 350.0 |
| 150.0 - 200.0 100.0 - 150.0 50.0 - 180.0 | | 250.0 - 300.0 |
| 100.6 - 150.0 50.0 - 190.0 | | 200.0 - 250.0 |
| 50.0 - 190.0 | | 150,0 - 200,0 |
| | : W.5 | 100.0 - 150.0 |
| 0.0 - 50.0 | :55 | 50.0 - 100.0 |
|] | | 0.0 — 50.0 |

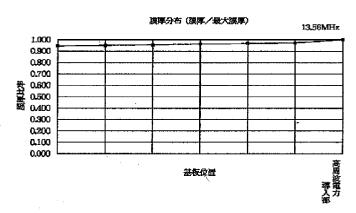
[Drawing 14]

50MHz 電極 (非磁性) インビーダンスの大きさ

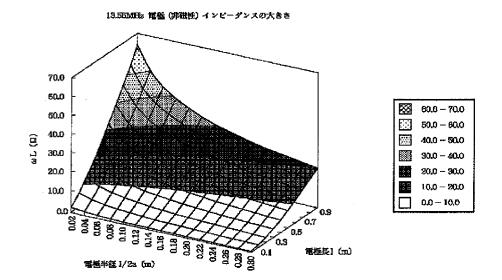




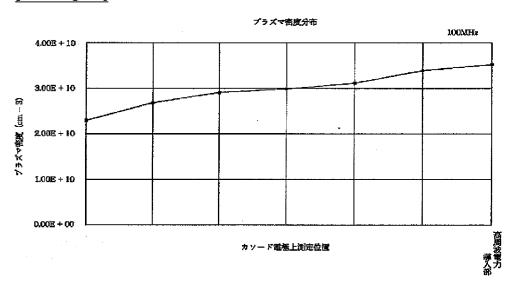
[Drawing 21]



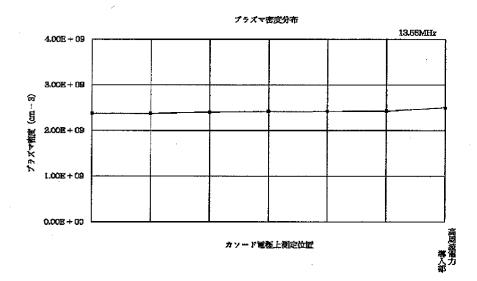
[Drawing 15]



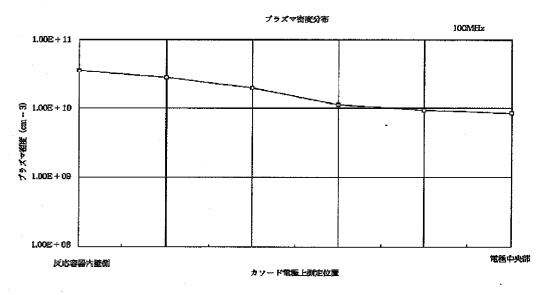
[Drawing 17]



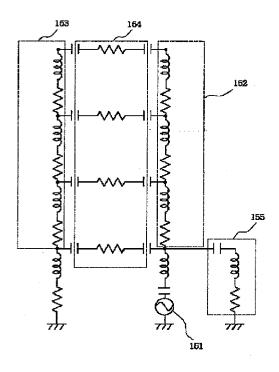
[Drawing 18]



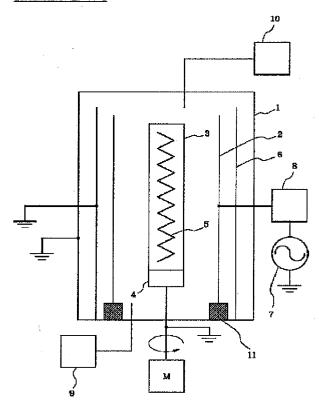
[Drawing 19]



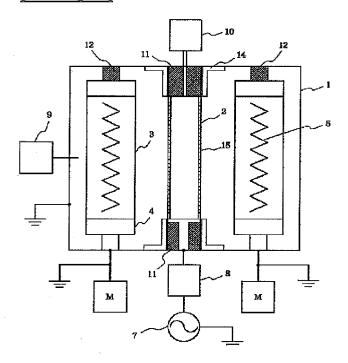
[Drawing 22]



[Drawing 23]



[Drawing 24]



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(43)公開日 平成6年(1994)10月11日

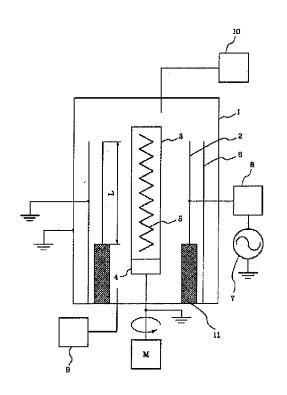
| (51)Int.Cl. ⁵ C 2 3 C H 0 1 L | | 識別記号 | 庁内整理番号 8116-4K | FI | 技術表示箇所 |
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| | | | | 審查請求 | 未請求 請求項の数20 OL (全23頁) |
| (21)出願番号 | 7 | 特顯平5-74030 | | (71)出願人 | 000001007 キヤノン株式会社 |
| (22)出願日 平成5年 | | 平成5年(1993)3 | 3月31日 | (72)発明者 | 東京都大田区下丸子3丁目30番2号 |
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(54)【発明の名称】 プラズマ処理装置及び処理方法

(57)【要約】

【目的】 13.56MHz以上の放電周波数を用いて もプラズマ密度の均一化や膜厚分布の均一化を行ない、 処理速度の向上を計りランニングコストや処理コストの 低減、設計期間の短縮を計ること。

【構成】 プラズマインピーダンスを Zp、カソード電 極のインピーダンスをZc、カソード電極を取り囲むア ースシールドのインピーダンスを Z s h、基板のホルダ ーのインピーダンスを Zaとしたとき、 | Zc | / | Z p | ≦または | Z a | / | Z s h | かつ | Z c | / | Z s h 」のいずれか一方を満足するように構成する。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、該電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、プラズマインピーダンスZcが|Zc|/|Zp|≤5、またはカソード電極を取り囲むアースシールドのインピーダンスZshと該被処理基体とその基体を保持しているホルダーのインピーダンスZaとカソ10ード電極のインピーダンスZcで|Za|/|Zsh|≤1且つ|Zc|/|Zsh|≤1目つ|Zc|/|Zsh|≤1のいずれか一方を満たすことを特徴とするプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項2】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極周辺に設置されるアースシールドとして、プラズマ発生空間に面する側に軟磁性材料を配置するとと20もに、高周波電力導入に面する側に非磁性材料を配置することを特徴とするプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項3】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極と前記カソード電極と対向する位置に設置された被処理基体を設置する電極を有するプラズマ処理装置のカソード電極の少なくとも一方向の寸法(L1)と、対向する被処理基体の寸法(L2)との比(L1/L2)が0.5~1.1の範囲であることを特徴とするプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項4】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、被処理基体またはその基体を保持しているホルダー以外であってカソード近傍に設置され且つプラズマ発生空間に接するアース電極とカソード電極との距離d1と、前記被処理基体または前記ホルダーとカソード電極の間の距離d2の比(d1/d2)が1以上であることを特徴とするプラズマ処理装置

【請求項5】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極表面上の一部又は全体を誘電体で覆うことを50

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特徴とするプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項6】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、カソード電極の形状が円筒状とされ、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極を長さ方向に複数分割し、各カソード間に印加周波数に応じた各カソードのインダクタンス成分を打ち消す厚みの誘電体を設けることを特徴とするプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項7】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極と前記カソード電極と対向する位置に設置された被処理基体を設置する電極を有するプラズマ処理装置のカソード電極の高周波印加導入部から見て最も遠いカソード電極部に対向する部分で基体の接地電位をとることを特徴とするプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項8】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、アースシールドと前記アースシールドとプラズマ発生空間の接する空間を絶縁物で覆うことを特徴とするプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項9】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が 30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加す 30 MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加す 30 るカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理する プラズマ処理装置であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極と前記カソード電極と対向する位置に設置された被処理基体を設置する電極を有するプラズマ処理装置のカソード電極の少なくとも一方向の寸法(L1)と、対向する被処理基体の寸法(L2)との比(L1/L2)を0.5~1.1の範囲とし、且つ、前記カソード電極周辺に設置されるアースシールドとして、プラズマ発生空間に面する側に軟磁性材料を配置するととも 10、高周波電力導入に面する側に非磁性材料を配置することを特徴とするプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項10】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極と前記カソード電極と対向する位置に設置された被処理基体を設置する電極を有するプラズマ処理装置のカソード電極の少なくとも一方向の寸法(L1)と、対向する被処理基体の寸法(L2)との比(L1/

L2)を0.5~1.1の範囲とし、且つ、前記カソード電極周辺に設置されるアースシールドと前記アースシールドとブラズマ発生空間の接する空間を絶縁物で覆い、更に、前記被処理基体またはその基体を保持しているホルダーを除くカソード近傍に設置され且つプラズマ発生空間に接するアース電極とカソードとの距離d1と、前記被処理基体と前記ホルダーとカソード間の距離d2の比(d1/d2)が1以上であることを特徴とするプラズマ処理装置。

【請求項12】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理方法であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極周辺に設置されるアースシールドとして、プラズマ発生空間に面する側に軟磁性材料を配置するとともに、高周波電力導入に面する側に非磁性材料を配置した状態でプラズマ処理することを特徴とするプラズマ 30 処理方法。

【請求項13】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理方法であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極と前記カソード電極と対向する位置に設置された被処理基体を設置する電極を有するプラズマ処理装置のカソード電極の少なくとも一方向の寸法(L1)と、対向する被処理基体の寸法(L2)との比(L1/L2)を0.5~1.1の範囲としてプラズマ処理することを特徴とするプラズマ処理方法。

【請求項14】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、被処理基体またはその基体を保持しているホルダー以外であってカソード近傍に設置され且つプラズマ発生空間に接するアース電極とカソード電極との距離 d 1 と、前記被処理基体または前記 50

Δ

ホルダーとカソード電極の間の距離 d 2 の比(d 1/d 2) を1以上としてプラズマ処理することを特徴とするプラズマ処理方法。

【請求項15】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理方法であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極表面上の一部又は全体を誘電体で覆った状態でプラズマ処理することを特徴とするプラズマ処理方法。

【請求項16】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理方法であって、カソード電極の形状が円筒状とされ、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極を長さ方向に複数分割し、各カソード間に所望の厚さの誘電体を設けて印加周波数に応じた各カソードのインダクタンス成分を打ち消してプラズマ処理することを特徴とするプラズマ処理方法。

【請求項17】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理方法であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極と前記カソード電極と対向する位置に設置された被処理基体を設置する電極を有するプラズマ処理装置のカソード電極の高周波印加導入部から見て最も遠いカソード電極部に対向する部分で基体の接地電位をとった状態でプラズマ処理することを特徴とするプラズマ処理方法。

【請求項18】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理方法であって、アースシールドと前記アースシールドとプラズマ発生空間の接する空間を絶縁物で覆った状態でプラズマ処理することを特徴とするプラズマ処理方法。

【請求項19】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理方法であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極と前記カソード電極と対向する位置に設置された被処理基体を設置する電極を有するプラズマ処理装置のカソード電極の少なくとも一方向の寸法(L1)と、対向する被処理基体の寸法(L2)との比(L1/L2)を0.5~1.1の範囲とし、且つ、前記カソー

ド電極周辺に設置されるアースシールドとして、プラズマ発生空間に面する側に軟磁性材料を配置するとともに、高周波電力導入に面する側に非磁性材料を配置した状態でプラズマ処理することを特徴とするプラズマ処理方法。

【請求項20】 減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数 が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加 するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発 生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理す るプラズマ処理装置であって、高周波電力の印加される 10 カソード電極と前記カソード電極と対向する位置に設置 された被処理基体を設置する電極を有するプラズマ処理 装置のカソード電極の少なくとも一方向の寸法(L1) と、対向する被処理基体の寸法(L2)との比(L1/ L2)を0.5~1.1の範囲とし、且つ、前記カソー ド電極周辺に設置されるアースシールドと前記アースシ ールドとプラズマ発生空間の接する空間を絶縁物で覆 い、更に、前記被処理基体またはその基体を保持してい るホルダーを除くカソード近傍に設置され且つプラズマ 発生空間に接するアース電極とカソードとの距離 d 1 と、前記被処理基体と前記ホルダーとカソード間の距離 d2の比(d1/d2)が1以上であることを特徴とす るプラズマ処理方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、半導体デバイスとしての電子写真用感光体デバイス、画像入力用ラインセンサー、撮像デバイス、光起力デバイス等に有用な結晶質、または非単結晶質の機能性堆積膜を好適に形成し得るプラズマCVD装置、半導体デバイスや光学素子としての30 絶縁膜、金属配線等を好適に形成し得るスパッタ装置、或いは半導体デバイス等のエッチング装置等のプラズマ処理装置及びその処理方法に関し、更に詳しくは、特にプラズマを励起源として用い基体を処理を行うプラズマ処理装置及び処理方法であって、特に30MHz以上、300MHz以下の高周波を好適に使用可能なプラズマ処理装置及びその処理方法に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】半導体等で使用されているプラズマ処理 装置はそれぞれの用途に応じて様々な方法がある。例え 40 ば、成膜等ではプラズマCVD装置や方法を用いた酸化 膜、窒化膜の形成やアモルファスシリコン系の半導体 膜、またスパッタリング装置や方法を用いた金属配線 膜、エッチング装置や方法を用いた微細加工技術等様々 にその特徴を活かす装置、方法が使用されている。

【0003】更に、近年膜質及び処理能力向上に対する要望も強くなっており様々な工夫も検討されている。

【0004】特に高周波電力を用いたプラズマプロセスは、放電の安定性が高く酸化膜や窒化膜の絶縁性の材料形成にも使用できる等様々な利点より使用されている。

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【0005】従来、プラズマCVD等のプラズマプロセスに用いられている放電用高周波電源の発振周波数は一般的に13.56MHzが用いられる。堆積膜形成に一般的に多く使われているプラズマCVD装置の一例を図23に示す。図23に示されるプラズマCVD装置は、円筒状の電子写真感光体用基体上にアモルファスシリコン膜(以下a-Si膜と記す)を形成する場合の成膜装置である。以下、この装置を用いたa-Si膜の成膜方法を説明する。

【0006】減圧可能な反応容器1内に絶縁材料11に より反応容器1とは電気的に絶縁された円筒状のカソー ド電極2及び対向電極としての円筒状の被成膜基体(電 子写真感光体用基体) 3が配置されている。膜厚及び膜 特性の均一性を向上させるために、カソード電極2の円 筒軸方向の寸法は被成膜基体の円筒軸方向の寸法よりも 長くされている。例えば、放電周波数が13.56MH zのプラズマCVD法で、膜厚ムラが±10%程度以下 の膜厚均一性を得るには、通常、カソード電極の円筒軸 方向の寸法は被成膜基体の円筒軸方向の寸法の少なくと 20 も約1.5倍から2倍程度必要である。ここで膜厚ムラ とは被成膜基体上の膜厚の最大膜厚と最小膜厚の差を平 均膜厚で割った値の1/2の値に土を付けて表した値と 定義する。従って、図23に示されるプラズマCVD装 置においても、通常はこのような関係となるように被成 膜基体3とカソード電極2の長さの関係とされている

(但し図23においてはその関係を正確に示していない)。被成膜基体3は、モータMにより駆動される回転機構4に保持され、内部の加熱ヒータ5により、その内側より加熱される。カソード電極2のまわりには、カソード電極2と反応容器1との間で放電が発生しないように、アースシールド6が配置されている。高周波電源7は整合回路8を介してカソード電極2に接続されている。9は真空排気手段、10はガス供給手段である。

【0007】反応容器1内を真空排気手段9によって所望の真空度(例えば高真空)まで排気した後、ガス供給手段10によってシランガス、ジシランガス、メタンガス、エタンガスなどの原料ガスをまたジボランガスなどのドーピングガスを導入し、数10ミリトールから数トールの圧力に維持する。

【0008】高周波電源7より13.56MHzの高周波電力をカソード電極2に供給して、カソード電極2と被成膜基体3との間にプラズマを発生させ原料ガスを分解することにより、加熱ヒータ4により200℃~350℃程度に加熱された被成膜基体3上にa-Si膜を堆積する。

【0009】この成膜方法で電子写真感光体の性能を満足するa-Si 膜を得るための堆積速度は例えば、1時間あたり 6μ 服程度の堆積速度で行なわれるように設定すると、それ以上に堆積速度を上げると感光体としての特性を得る事が出来ない場合がある。また、一般に電子

写真感光体としてa-Si 膜を利用する場合、帯電能を得るために少なくとも $20\sim30~\mu$ mの膜厚が必要であり、電子写真感光体を製造する為には長時間を要していた。

【0010】ところで、近年、平行平板型のプラズマCVD装置を用い13.56MHz以上の高周波電源を用いたプラズマCVD法の報告(Plasma Chemistry and Plasma Processing, Vol 7, No 3, (1987) p267-273)があり、放電周波数を従来の13.56MHzより高くする事で、堆積膜の性能を落とさずに堆積速度を向上させることができる可能性が示されており、注目されている。またこの放電周波数を高くする報告はスパッタリング等でもなされ、近年広くその優位性が検討されている。

[0011]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】本発明者らは、上述したような従来のプラズマCVD装置を用い、良質な特性を有する膜の堆積速度向上のために放電周波数を従来の13.56MHzの代わりに、より高い周波数の高周波 20電力を用いて検討を行ってきた。

【0012】その結果、周波数を上げたことで確かに目的通り良質膜を従来より高い堆積速度で作製することができることは確認できたが、13.56MHzの放電周波数では問題にならなかった以下の様な問題が新たに発生する場合があることがわかった。

【0013】即ち、放電周波数を上げることでプラズマが逼在化し、その結果、電子写真感光体のような比較的大面積の被加工体においては、堆積速度に不均一性が生じ、結果的に実用上問題となる様な膜厚ムラ、例えば電 30子写真感光体の場合±20%以上の膜厚ムラ、を生じる場合がある。

【0014】この様な膜厚ムラは、電子写真感光体のみならず、画像入力用ラインセンサー、撮像デバイス、光起力デバイス等に有用な結晶質、または非単結晶質の機能性堆積膜を形成する場合に大きな問題となる。またドライエッチング、スパッタ等の他のプラズマプロセスにおいても、放電周波数を上げた場合に同様の処理ムラが生じ、このままでは実用上大きな問題になってくる。

【0015】本発明の目的は、上述のような従来の問題 40 点を克服し、従来のプラズマプロセスでは達成できなかった処理速度で比較的大面積の基体を均一にプラズマ処理することが可能なプラズマ処理装置及び方法を提供することにある。

[0016]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記目的を達成する本発明のプラズマ処理装置は、減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、該電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラ 50

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ズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、プラズマインピーダンス Z p Z b Z p Z p Z c Z f Z f Z p Z c Z s h Z c Z c Z f Z f Z c

【0017】また、本発明のプラズマ処理装置は、減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極周辺に設置されるアースシールドとして、プラズマ発生空間に面する側に軟磁性材料を配置するとともに、高周波電力導入に面する側に非磁性材料を配置することを特徴とする。

【0018】また、本発明のプラズマ処理装置は、減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極と前記カソード電極と対向する位置に設置された被処理基体を設置する電極を有するプラズマ処理装置のカソード電極の少なくとも一方向の寸法(L1)と、対向する被処理基体の寸法(L2)との比(L1/L2)が0.5~1.1の範囲であることを特徴とする。

【0019】更に、本発明のプラズマ処理装置は、減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、被処理基体またはその基体を保持しているホルダー以外であってカソード近傍に設置され且つプラズマ発生空間に接するアース電極とカソード電極との距離は1と、前記被処理基体または前記ホルダーとカソード電極の間の距離は2の比(d1/d2)が1以上であることを特徴とする。

【0020】加えて、本発明のプラズマ処理装置は、減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極表面上の一部又は全体を誘電体で覆うことを特徴とする。

【0021】また、本発明のプラズマ処理装置は、減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上30 0MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対 向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置 した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置で あって、カソード電極の形状が円筒状とされ、高周波電 力の印加されるカソード電極を長さ方向に複数分割し、 各カソード間に印加周波数に応じた各カソードのインダ クタンス成分を打ち消す厚みの誘電体を設けることを特 徴とする。

【0022】更に、本発明のプラズマ処理装置は、減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対 10向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極と前記カソード電極と対向する位置に設置された被処理基体を設置する電極を有するプラズマ処理装置のカソード電極の高周波印加導入部から見て最も遠いカソード電極部に対向する部分で基体の接地電位をとることを特徴とする。

【0023】本発明のプラズマ処理装置は、減圧可能な 反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MH z以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する 電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被 処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であっ て、アースシールドと前記アースシールドとプラズマ発 生空間の接する空間を絶縁物で覆うことを特徴とする。

【0024】本発明のプラズマ処理装置は、減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極と前記カソード電極と対向する位置に設置された被処理基体を設置する電極を有するプラズマ処理装置のカソード電極の少なくとも一方向の寸法(L1)と、対向する被処理基体の寸法(L2)との比(L1/L2)を0.5~1.1の範囲とし、且つ、前記カソード電極周辺に設置されるアースシールドとして、プラズマ発生空間に面する側に軟磁性材料を配置するとともに、高周波電力導入に面する側に非磁性材料を配置することを特徴とする。

【0025】本発明のプラズマ処理装置は、減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MH 40 z以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極と前記カソード電極と対向する位置に設置された被処理基体を設置する電極を有するプラズマ処理装置のカソード電極の少なくとも一方向の寸法(L1)と、対向する被処理基体の寸法(L2)との比(L1/L2)を0.5~1.1の範囲とし、且つ、前記カソード電極周辺に設置されるアースシールドと前記アースシールドとプラズマ発生空間50

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の接する空間を絶縁物で覆い、更に、前記被処理基体またはその基体を保持しているホルダーを除くカソード近傍に設置され且つプラズマ発生空間に接するアース電極とカソードとの距離 d 1 と、前記被処理基体と前記ホルダーとカソード間の距離 d 2 の比(d 1 / d 2)が 1 以上であることを特徴とする。

【0026】また、本発明のプラズマ処理方法は、減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理方法であって、プラズマインピーダンスZpとカソード電極のインピーダンスZcが $|Zc|/|Zp| \le 5$ 、または、カソード電極を取り囲むアースシールドのインピーダンスZshと該被処理基体とその基体を保持しているホルダーのインピーダンスZaとカソード電極のインピーダンスZcで、 $|Za|/|Zsh| \le 1$ 担つ $|Zc|/|Zsh| \le 1$ を満たすことを特徴とする。

[0027] 本発明のプラズマ処理方法は、減圧可能な 反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MH z以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する 電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被 処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理方法であっ て、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極周辺に設置されるアースシールドとして、プラズマ発生空間に面する 側に軟磁性材料を配置するとともに、高周波電力導入に 面する側に非磁性材料を配置した状態でプラズマ処理することを特徴とする。

【0028】本発明のプラズマ処理方法は、減圧可能な反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MHz以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理方法であって、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極と前記カソード電極と対向する位置に設置された被処理基体を設置する電極を有するプラズマ処理装置のカソード電極の少なくとも一方向の寸法(L1)と、対向する被処理基体の寸法(L2)との比(L1/L2)を0.5~1.1の範囲としてプラズマ処理することを特徴とする。

2 【0029】本発明のプラズマ処理方法は、減圧可能な 反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MH z以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する 電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被 処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であっ て、被処理基体またはその基体を保持しているホルダー 以外であってカソード近傍に設置され且つプラズマ発生 空間に接するアース電極とカソード電極との距離d1 と、前記被処理基体または前記ホルダーとカソード電極 の間の距離d2の比(d1/d2)を1以上としてプラ ズマ処理することを特徴とする。

【0030】本発明のプラズマ処理方法は、減圧可能な 反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MH z以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する 電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被 処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理方法であっ て、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極表面上の一部 又は全体を誘電体で覆った状態でプラズマ処理すること を特徴とする。

【0031】本発明のプラズマ処理方法は、減圧可能な 反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MH 10 z以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する 電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被 処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理方法であっ て、カソード電極の形状が円筒状とされ、高周波電力の 印加されるカソード電極を長さ方向に複数分割し、各カ ソード間に所望の厚さの誘電体を設けて印加周波数に応 じた各カソードのインダクタンス成分を打ち消してプラ ズマ処理することを特徴とする。

【0032】本発明のプラズマ処理方法は、減圧可能な 反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MH 20 上であることを特徴とする。 z以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する 電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被 処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理方法であっ て、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極と前記カソー ド電極と対向する位置に設置された被処理基体を設置す る電極を有するプラズマ処理装置のカソード電極の高周 波印加導入部から見て最も遠いカソード電極部に対向す る部分で基体の接地電位をとった状態でプラズマ処理す ることを特徴とする。

【0033】本発明のプラズマ処理方法は、減圧可能な 30 反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MH z以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する 電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被 処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理方法であっ て、アースシールドと前記アースシールドとプラズマ発 生空間の接する空間を絶縁物で覆った状態でプラズマ処 理することを特徴とする。

【0034】本発明のプラズマ処理方法は、減圧可能な 反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MH z以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する 電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被 処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理方法であっ て、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極と前記カソー ド電極と対向する位置に設置された被処理基体を設置す る電極を有するプラズマ処理装置のカソード電極の少な くとも一方向の寸法(L1)と、対向する被処理基体の 寸法(L2)との比(L1/L2)を0.5~1.1の 範囲とし、且つ、前記カソード電極周辺に設置されるア ースシールドとして、プラズマ発生空間に面する側に軟 磁性材料を配置するとともに、高周波電力導入に面する 50

側に非磁性材料を配置した状態でプラズマ処理すること を特徴とする。

【0035】本発明のプラズマ処理方法は、減圧可能な 反応容器内で、放電周波数が30MHz以上300MH z以下の高周波電力を印加するカソード電極と対向する 電極との間にプラズマを発生させ、電極上に配置した被 処理基体をプラズマ処理するプラズマ処理装置であっ て、高周波電力の印加されるカソード電極と前記カソー ド電極と対向する位置に設置された被処理基体を設置す る電極を有するプラズマ処理装置のカソード電極の少な くとも一方向の寸法(L1)と、対向する被処理基体の 寸法(L2)との比(L1/L2)を0.5~1.1の 範囲とし、且つ、前記カソード電極周辺に設置されるア ースシールドと前記アースシールドとプラズマ発生空間 の接する空間を絶縁物で覆い、更に、前記被処理基体ま たはその基体を保持しているホルダーを除くカソード近 傍に設置され且つプラズマ発生空間に接するアース電極 とカソードとの距離 d 1 と、前記被処理基体と前記ホル ダーとカソード間の距離 d 2 の比(d 1 / d 2) が 1 以

[0036]

【実施例】以下、本発明を図面を用いて説明する。

【0037】本発明者らは、従来の装置及び方法におけ る前述の問題点を鋭意検討した結果、放電周波数とプラ ズマの不均一性との関係について簡単な高周波等価回路 に基づいて体系化し、従来より高い放電周波数において もプラズマの均一化及びそれに基づくプラズマ処理の均 一化を達成する手段について知見を得た。以下、図22 の高周波等価回路に沿って以下に説明する。

【0038】高周波電源151より出力された高周波電 力をカソード電極152上に印加、伝搬させ、該カソー ド電極と対向する被処理基体153との間の高周波電界 によりプラズマ154を生起させることにより、前記被 処理基体上にプラズマ処理を行う。この際、上記の各構 成部分を高周波回路としてそのインピーダンスを考えて みると以下の様になる。

(ア) カソード電極:カソードのインピーダンス Z c は、カソードの表皮抵抗成分Rc、インダクタンス成分 Lcとすると、

 $Zc = Rc + j\omega Lc$ となる。

> (イ)プラズマ;プラズマのインピーダンスは、プラズ マの純抵抗成分Rp、プラズマとカソード電極及び被処 理基体との境界のイオンシースの容量成分Cpとする

 $Zp = Rp + 1/j\omega Cp$ となる。

(ウ) 被処理基体;アノード電極となる被処理基体のイ ンピーダンスは、その表皮抵抗成分Ra、インダクタン ス成分∟aとすると、

 $Za=Ra+j\omega La$ となる。なお、以上において、 j は虚数単位、 ω は高周 波の角周波数である。

【0039】ところで、高周波等価回路的に見て、上述のような構成を持つプラズマ処理装置において、高周波の周波数を上げていくと、

- (1)被処理基板の大面積化に伴い通常は対極に位置するカソード電極面積も大きくし対応をとるが、カソードに印加される放電周波数(高周波電源の周波数)が高くなるとカソード電極のインダクタンス成分してによるイ 10ンピーダンス Z c も大きくなり、カソード上での高周波電圧が高周波導入部からカソード上を伝搬するにつれて減衰しやすくなってくる。
- (2) カソード電極と接しているプラズマのインピーダンスZpは、周波数が上がるにつれてその容量インピーダンス成分 1/ JωCpにより小さくなってくるため高周波電流は周波数を上げるにつれてカソード上よりもプラズマに多く流れ易くなり、更にカソード上を伝搬する際の高周波電圧の減衰は大きくなる。

【0040】この結果、放電周波数を上げると、カソー 20 ド上の高周波電圧のムラによりプラズマも遍在化する。

(3) 実際のプラズマ処理装置においては、図22に示される通り、高周波電源151からの高周波電力をカソード電極へ効率よく伝送するためにその伝送路周りにアースシールド155を設置するが、該アースシールドも通常誘電体により電気的にカソードと絶縁されているも

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ののカソードとの間に容量成分を持っており、周波数が 上がるにつれて両者間のインピーダンスは小さくなる。 同様に、アースシールドは伝送路外においてはプラズマ とも接している場合も多く、プラズマとの間のインピー ダンスも容量的な為に放電周波数が上がるにつれ小さく なってくる。また、被処理基体を接地、絶縁若しくは電 位を与えたりしても、高周波においてはアースとの間に 何らかのインピーダンス(Zash)を有している。こ こで、カソードと被処理基体との間のインピーダンスや カソードのインピーダンスよりもカソードとアースシー ルドの伝送路外の部分とのインピーダンスが低くなった 場合、高周波電流は、アースシールド外部を伝送してア ースに流れてしまったり、アースシールド周りの高周波 電界が大きくなり放電がアースシールド周りに遍在化す るため、相対的にカソード上の放電が弱くなりアースシ ールド付近のプラズマ処理速度が上がり処理ムラが発生 する

等の問題が生じる場合があることが判った。

【0041】以上の問題を図23のプラズマCVD装置を用いて測定した結果で示す。

(ア)電極のインピーダンスは放電周波数、電極長、電極半径、電極材質により影響される。表1に各周波数における表皮抵抗成分Rcの値を示す。

[0042]

【表1】

表皮抵抗值Rc

| 材質 | Å1 | Cu | Fe | SUS304 | 45%704 | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|
| 抵抗值(100MHz)Ω | 3. 24E-02 | 2.58E-02 | 6.50E÷00 | 1.69B-01 | 6.67E+00 | |
| 抵抗値(50MHz)Ω | 2. 29E-04 | 1.83E-02 | 4. 60E+00 | 1.19B-01 | 4.72E+00 | |
| 抵抗值(10MHz)Ω | 1. 03E-02 | 8. 17E-03 | 2. 06E+00 | 5. 33R-02 | 2. 11E+00 | |

【0043】また図13に非磁性材料電極で、電極長 1、電極半径a/2における100MHzでのインダクタ ンス成分によるインピーダンスを示す。非磁性材料では この領域のインピーダンスZcはほとんどインダクタン 40 ス成分によるインピーダンスで決定される。

【0044】しかしながら軟磁性材料を用いた場合表皮抵抗成分Rcが大きくなりインピーダンスZcは「Zc = $Rc+j\omega$ L c 」より影響を受けることが判る。

(イ) $|Zc|=144\Omega$ (100MHz)となるカソード電極上で電極間中央でのプローブ法によるプラズマ密度分布の測定結果を図17に示す。

【0045】図17に示されるようにカソード電極、対 向電極間のプラズマ密度は高周波導入部側のプラズマ密 度が高く、導入部から離れるに従ってプラズマ密度が低 50 下する傾向が見られる。これはカソード電極のインダク タンス成分 L c によるインピーダンス Z c の増加に伴う 高周波電圧のカソード上の伝搬の減衰による放電ムラを 示している。

(ウ) カソード電極と反応容器内壁アースとの距離 d 1 とカソード電極と対向電極との距離 d 2 の比(d 1/d 2)を 0.5 としたすなわち対向電極より反応容器壁を近づけた場合でのカソード、対向電極間のプラズマ密度分布の測定結果を図19に示す。

【0046】ここで目視でもカソードー反応容器内壁との間でプラズマ発光強度が強く放電が強く起こっており、プラズマ密度もこの放電逼在の影響を受けより分布のムラが助長されている。

【0047】以上のプラズマ密度のムラは図20の膜厚

分布の図に見られるようにカソード電極の対極に設置された基体上の膜厚分布へ影響を与え、膜厚分布ムラが発生する原因であることが示される。ここで膜厚分布とは被成膜基体上の膜厚を最大膜厚で割った比率と定義する。

【0048】比較として同じ図23のプラズマCVD装置にて従来使用されている13.56MHzで測定結果を示す。カソードインピーダンス、プラズマ密度、膜厚分布の測定結果を夫々示す。

【0049】図15に非磁性材質電極におけるインダク 10 タンス成分によるインピーダンスの電極長 I、電極半径 a/2の依存性を示す。例えば、電極長 I を I

【0050】また、カソード電極上で電極間中央でのプローブ法によるプラズマ密度分布の測定結果を図18に示す。

【0051】図18に示したようにカソード電極、対向 20 電極間のプラズマ密度はほぼ均一である。これはカソード電極のインダクタンス成分Lcによるインピーダンス Zcの増加に伴う高周波電圧のカソード上の伝搬の減衰は13.56MHzではほとんど見られないことを示している。

【0052】従って、高周波を減衰することを少なくして伝送したい場合は、この軟磁性材料を用いず、非磁性材料を用いることが好ましい。これは高周波放電漏れ防止を兼ねたアースシールドを構成する材質として、プラズマの接する側は軟磁性材を用い、一方高周波を伝送す 30る側は非磁性材を用いることが好ましいことを示している。

【0053】また、図21に見られるようにカソード電極の対極に設置された基体上の膜厚分布のムラはなくほぼ均一であることが示される。

【0054】以上示したように13.56MHz及びその近傍の放電周波数では問題にはならず、放電周波数をより高くすることでこれらの問題が大きく発生するものである。

【0055】これらの問題はどの周波数より影響を受け 40 顕著となるかを計測するため、図23のプラズマCVD 装置を用い13.56MHz~300MHzで放電を行い、図16に各々のプラズマ密度ムラを測定した結果を示す。ここでプラズマ密度ムラとはプラズマ密度の最大値と最小値の差をプラズマ密度の平均値にで割った値と定義する。

【0056】図16に示されるように、プラズマ密度ムラは30MHz近傍で±10%以上となり放電周波数によるカソード電極のインピーダンスによる高周波電圧の減衰が顕著になることがわかる。なお、放電周波数が3 50

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00MHzを越えると高周波の整合回路の設計が困難になり、また伝送損失も大きくなり実用的ではないことが判った。

【0057】被処理基体に入射するイオンのエネルギーの幅を計測したところ、13.56MHzでは約30e Vであったが、30MHzでは約15eV、100MHz以上では約10eVであった。

【0058】被処理基体への入射イオンエネルギーを利用するプロセスにおいては、このエネルギー幅を小さくすることで制御性の向上を達成することができる点を鑑みると、30MHz以上のプロセスにおいてこの相関関係は重要な問題となる。

【0059】そこで30MHz~300MHzでのこれらカソードインピーダンスによる高周波電力損失等による不均一化を解決する手段として本発明者等は以下に示す知見を得た。

- (1) カソード電極のインピーダンスの大きさ | Z c | 、プラズマインピーダンスの大きさ | Z p | 、カソードに対向する電極のインピーダンスの大きさ | Z a | 、カソード近傍に設置されるアースシールドのインピーダンス大きさ | Z s h | 、に関係があると思われること。
- (2) カソード、対向電極間のプラズマ密度Ne1及び カソード電極、対極電極以外のアース電極(アースシー ルド、反応容器壁等)間のプラズマ密度Ne2に関係が あると思われること。
- (3) カソード電極、プラズマ、対向電極トータルでのインピーダンス調整に関係があると思われること。 である。

【0060】そこで、図23に示される構成の装置にて |Zc|/|Zp|に対する電極間のプラズマ密度ムラ を計測した。プラズマインピーダンス|Zp|は高周波 電力の整合回路のマッチング定数より算出する。

【0061】その結果 | Zc | / | Zp | ≦5なる条件でプラズマ密度ムラが±10%以下になりまた膜厚ムラも±10%以下になり膜厚分布の均一性が達成できることがわかった。

【0062】また $| Za | / | Zsh | 及び | Zc | / | Zsh | に対するプラズマ密度ムラを計測したところ <math>| Za | / | Zsh | \le 1$ 且つ $| Zc | / | Zsh | \le 1$ なる条件でプラズマ密度ムラが±10%以下となり、また膜厚ムラも±10%以下になり膜厚分布の均一性が 達成できることがわかった。

【0063】また、図23に示される装置にてNe1≧Ne2なる条件としてカソード電極、対極電極以外のアースシールド間の空間をテフロンにて埋め強制的に放電を防止しプラズマを発生しないようにして成膜を行い膜厚ムラを測定したところ±10%以下の膜厚分布の均一性が達成できることがわかった。

【0064】 同様にカソード電極とその対向電極の電極 間距離d1とカソード電極と対向電極以外のプラズマ空 間に接するアース電極との距離d2でd1<d2として プラズマ密度を計測したところ、カソード、対向電極間 のプラズマ密度Ne1及びカソード電極、対極電極以外 のアース電極(アースシールド)間のプラズマ密度Ne 2の関係はNe1>Ne2となりまたこの条件で膜厚ム ラは土10%以下となり膜厚分布の均一性を達成できる ことがわかった。

【0065】また、カソード電極インピーダンス、プラ ズマインピーダンス及びカソード電極と対向する電極の インピーダンスを各部分でほぼ等しくするため、カソー 10 ド電極に印加される高周波導入部分と最も遠い位置で対 向電極のアース電位導入部をとることでプラズマ密度分 布は土10%以下になり、また膜厚ムラも土10%以下 となり膜厚分布の均一性を達成できることがわかった。 【0066】以上、均一なプラズマを得る手段として (a) カソード電極近傍のアースシールド材構成によっ て | Zsh | を制御すること(| Zsh | を大きくす る)、(b)カソード電極長と対向電極長の関係を適切 にすること(カソード電極インピーダンスの大きさ | Z c|を小さくし、且つNe1>Ne2を達成)、(c) カソード電極とその対向電極の電極間距離とカソード電 極と対向電極以外のプラズマ空間に接するアース電極と の距離との関係を適切にすること(Ne1>Ne2によ りプラズマ密度分布等向上)、(d)カソード電極表面 を誘電体にて覆うことによるプラズマインピーダンスの 大きさ「Zp|を制御すること(|Zp|を大きくす る)、(e)カソード電極のインダクタンス成分Lcを 相殺する容量成分 C c にて分割しカソード電極インピー ダンスの大きさ | Z c | を制御すること(| Z c | 小さ 並びにアース電位の導入位置の関係を適切にすること (カソード電極インピーダンスの大きさ | Z c | 、プラ ズマインピーダンスの大きさ|Zp|及び対向電極イン ピーダンスの大きさ「Ζα」を各部分で等しくしプラズ マ密度分布向上〉、(g)カソード電極近傍のアースシ ールドとプラズマ発生空間を遮断する手段を設けること (Ne1>Ne2によりプラズマ密度分布等向上)、が 考えられる。

【0067】ここで、本発明のカソード電極長と被成膜 基体との長さの比を限定する特許として特開平4-21 40 2167が開示されている。前記特許は成膜中に発生す る微粉体による被堆積膜の画像欠陥を防止する技術とし て、円筒状の被成膜基体への成膜方法として被成膜基体 の上下に脱着可能な導電体のホルダーを該被成膜基体長 と該ホルダー長を合わせた全長とカソード電極である対 向電極全長の長さの関係を限定し該対向電極と該被成膜 基体の端部での不均一放電を防止する方法である。

【0068】しかしながら前記特許は、微粉体の発生防 止としての圧力低下をすると13.56MHzでは成膜 速度も低下するといった問題も発生する考慮して、放電 50

周波数に対する認識は全くなく放電周波数を高くするう えでの問題点を考慮していないものであり本特許とは本 質を異なるものである。

【0069】上記説明は一例として一般的なプラズマ処 理装置であるプラズマCVD装置を取りあげて行なった が、他のプラズマ処理プロセスであるスパッタリング、 エッチング等も同様の問題点を有しており、その問題点 の解決方法はプラズマCVD装置の場合と基本的に同じ である。

【0070】従って、本発明はプラズマCVD装置のみ に限定されるものではない。

【0071】また上述した装置及び方法は各手法単独で 実施されることに限定されるものではなく複数の手法を 同時に実施することによりより一層の効果を増すことが できることは言うまでもない。また、本発明は本発明の 範囲内において、適宜変形、組み合わせができることも 云うまでもなく、以下に説明する実施例に限定されるも のではない。

【0072】なお、本発明のカソード電極のインピーダ 20 ンスの大きさは150Ω以下とすることは放電の均一性 の上で望ましい。

【0073】以下、具体的な実施例と比較例を挙げて本 発明を更に詳しく説明する。

【0074】なお、本発明は以下に説明される実施例に 限定されるものではなく、本発明の主旨の範囲内で適宜 変形が可能であり、また以下の実施例を或は本発明の主 旨を本発明の主旨の範囲内で適宜組み合わせることも可 能であることは云うまでもないことである。

【0075】(実施例1及び比較例1)図1に示される くする)、(f)カソード電極と対向する電極の高周波 30 本発明のプラズマCVD装置を用いて、放電周波数50 MHz及び100MHzとして、下記の成膜条件(1) でa-Si膜を被成膜基体3上に形成した。なお、図1 において、図23に示される符号と同じ符号は図23で 説明した通りであるのでその説明については省略する。

【0076】まず、50MHzでのカソード電極インピ ーダンスZcの関係を図14に基づいて、各々の周波数 でのプラズマインピーダンスZpに対しカソード電極長 | を変えて、各々 | Z c | / | Z p | = 5 、 | Z c | / **│Zp│−1なる条件とし膜厚ムラを測定した。**

【0077】また同様の成膜条件(1)で図14に基づ いてカソード電極長!を変え|Zc|/|Zp|=1 0、 | Z c | / | Z p | = 2 0 なる条件で膜厚ムラの比 較実験を行った。

【0078】その結果膜厚ムラは、周波数が50MHz の時、 | Z c | / | Z p | = 5 で約±10%、 | Z c / Zp | = 1で約±5%となった。比較実験として、 | Z c | / | Zp | = 10, $| Zc | / | Zp | = 2 \ge 0$ た以外は条件を同じにして膜厚ムラを測定したところ、 夫々約±20%、約±30%となった。

【0079】但し、それぞれの膜は分布のみの影響が大

きく同膜厚状態で部分的にa-Si膜の膜質を測定した 結果によれば、膜質は電子写真感光体や画像入力用ライ ンセンサー等に使用しても実用に十分耐え得るものであ った。

【0080】また、放電周波数100MHzとしたいが いは同じ条件でa-Si膜を同様の被成膜基体上に形成 したところほぼ同様の結果が得られた。

【0081】以上の結果からわかるように、カソード電 極のインピーダンスとプラズマインピーダンスには | 2 c | / | Zp | ≦5なる条件で装置構成を行うことによ 10 0%内となり、実用に使用できる膜厚ムラであった。 り放電周波数が高くなっても膜厚ムラの問題を解決で き、更に放電周波数による装置形状を最適化することが 可能である。

成膜条件(1)

原料ガス • • • S i H 4

・キャリアーガス・・・H2

・ガス流量 • • • S i H4 350 s c c m

350sccm

•••0. 25torr ・圧力

•••310℃ ・基体温度

•••0. 5W/cm2 ・高周波電力

【0082】(実施例2及び比較例2)図2に示される プラズマCVD装置を用いて、放電周波数50MHz及 び100MHzとして、下記の成膜条件(2)でa-S i 膜を被成膜基体上に形成した。図2において、図23 の符号と同じ符号で示されるものは図23で説明したも のと同じであるのでその説明は省略する。

【0083】なお、図2において、15はカソード電極 に設けられたガス噴出口、21及び22で示されるもの はいずれもシールド部材である。

【0084】また、図2において、高周波導入側に面し たシールド部材22としてはアルミニウムを、プラズマ に接した側に面したシールド部材21としては鉄を用い て検討した。

【0085】本発明の条件との比較を兼ね、50MHz

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で | Za | / | Zsh | = 10、 | Za | / | Zsh | = 2, |Za|/|Zsh|=1, |Za|/|Zsh||=0.5、なる条件及び | Zc | / | Zsh | =1 0, |Zc|/|Zsh| = 2, |Zc|/|Zsh|= 1、 | Z c | / | Z s h | = 0.5 なる条件で、前記 した方法により膜厚ムラを測定したところ、表2の様に なった。

【0086】表2に示されるように、 | Za | / | Zs h | ≦1且つ | Z c | / | Z s h | ≦1で膜厚ムラは1

【0087】なお、それぞれの膜は分布のみの影響が大 きく同膜厚状態で部分的にa-Si膜の膜質を測定した ところ、いずれの条件においても膜質は電子写真感光体 や画像入力用ラインセンサー等にしようして実用に十分 耐え得るものであった。

【0088】放電周波数を100MHzとした以外は上 記条件と同じにしてa-Si膜を同様の被成膜基体上に 形成したところほぼ同様の結果が得られた。

【0089】以上の結果から分かるように、カソード電 20 極のインピーダンスとプラズマインピーダンスには「 Z a | / | Z s h | ≦1且つ | Z c | / | Z s h | ≦1な る条件で装置構成を行うことにより放電周波数が高くな ることによる膜厚ムラの問題を解決でき、更に放電周波 数による装置形状を最適化することが可能である。

【0090】成膜条件(2)

· • • S i H 4 ・原料ガス

・キャリアーガス・・・H2

• • • 5 i H 4 ・ガス流量 450sccm

450sccm Ηz

•••0, 2torr 30 ・圧力

> ・基体温度 •••310℃

・高周波電力 •••0. 5W/cm2

[0091] 【表2】

21 表 2

膜厚ムラ計測(±%)

| 10 1 (17 1 1 | Zc / Zsh | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|--|
| Za / Zsh | 0.5 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | |
| 0,5 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 20 | |
| 1.0 | 8 | 10 | 21 | 31 | |
| 2.0 | 121 | 18 | 24 | 35 | |
| 3.0 | 17 | 23 | 32 | 43 | |

|Za| :カソード対向電極インピーダンスの大きさ

|Zc| :カソード電極インピーダンスの大きさ

| Zsh | : カソード近傍アースシールドのインピーダンスの大きさ

【0092】(実施例3)図3に示される円筒同軸型プラズマCVD装置を用いて、放電周波数50MHz及び100MHzとして、下記の成膜条件(3)でa-Si 20膜を被成膜基体上に形成した。図2において、図23の符号と同じ符号で示されるものは図23で説明したものと同じであるのでその説明は省略する。なお、図3において、14はカソード電極2用のアースシールド、16は容量結合用絶縁材料である。

【0093】カソード電極2は複数個の電極に分割され、それぞれを容量結合用絶縁材料16として石英リングを介して複数個の各カソード電極のインダクタンス成分を打ち消す容量になる距離で交互に設置されている。これによりカソード電極2のインピーダンスは希望する放電周波数で最小にすることができる。プラズマインピーダンスは測定の結果放電周波数50MHzで約40 Ω 、100MHzで約10 Ω であった。

【0094】前記した方法により膜厚ムラを測定したと ころ、約±8%となり、また、a-Si膜の膜質を測定 したところ、膜質は電子写真感光体や画像入力用ライン センサー等に充分に使用し得るものであった。

【0095】放電周波数を100MHzとした以外は上記した条件と同じ条件によりa-Si膜を同様の被成膜基体上に形成したところほぼ同様の結果が得られた。

【0096】以上の結果からわかるように、カソード電極上のシースによる容量成分を小さくし結果プラズマインピーダンスの大きさを大きくすることで、カソード電極インピーダンスの大きさの範囲を広げられるので、放電周波数が高くなることによる膜厚ムラの問題を解決でき、更に放電周波数による装置形状を最適化することが可能である。

【0097】成膜条件(3)

・原料ガス ・・・SiH4

・キャリアーガス・・・H2

・ガス流量 ・・・SiH4 450sccm

H₂ 450 sccm

・圧力 ・・・O. 2torr

・基体温度 ・・・310℃

・高周波電力 ・・・0,5W/cm²

【0098】(実施例4及び比較例3)図4に示される プラズマCVD装置を用いて、放電周波数100MHz として、カソード側の高周波電力導入部分に対して直流 電位的にアース電位に保たれている円筒状基体のアース 電位導入部をカソード電極高周波導入部に対して最も遠 い部分で行なうと共に、下記の成膜条件(4)にてa-5 i 膜を被成膜基体上に形成した。図4において、図2 3と同じ符号で示されるものは図23において説明した ものと同じであるので説明を省略する。図4において、 12は基体用絶縁材料、14はカソード電極2用のアー スシールド、15はカソード電極に設けられたガス噴出 口である。また比較として図24のプラズマCVD装置 を用いてカソード側の高周波電力導入部分に対して直流 電位的にアース電位に保たれている円筒状基体のアース 電位導入部をカソード電極高周波導入部に対して最も近 い部分で行なった場合で同成膜条件にした以外は同様に してa-Si膜を被成膜基体上に形成した。

【0099】各条件で前記した方法により膜厚ムラを測定したところ、最も遠い場合が約±10%、最も近い場合約±30%となった。

【0100】それぞれの膜は分布のみの影響が大きく同じ膜厚状態の部分で部分的にa-Si膜の膜質を測定したところ、膜質は電子写真感光体や画像入力用ラインセンサー等に使用して充分実用し得るものであった。

【0101】放電周波数を50MHzにした以外は上記 条件と同様にしてa-Si膜を同様の被成膜基体上に形成したところ、最も遠い場合が約±8%、最も近い場合 50約±10%となった。このように、本実施例において

は、特に放電周波数が大きいほど膜厚ムラの効果が高い 結果が得られることがわかった。

【0102】以上の結果からわかるように、カソード側 の高周波電力導入部分に対して直流電位的にアース電位 に保たれている円筒状基体のアース電位導入部をカソー ド電極高周波導入部に対して最も遠い部分でアース電位 と結合することにより膜厚ムラを改善でき、更にその効 果は放電周波数が高くほど大きく、放電周波数による装 置形状を最適化することが可能である。

【0103】成膜条件(4)

・原料ガス • • • S i H4

・キャリアーガス・・・H2

・ガス流量 •••**5** i H4 450sccm 450 s c c m

・圧力 •••0. 2torr

・基体温度 . . . 310℃

・高周波電力 ・・・0、5W/cm²

【0104】(実施例5及び比較例4)図5に示される プラズマCVD装置を用いて、放電周波数100MHz として、下記の成膜条件(5)でa-Si膜を被成膜基 20 用されるa-Si膜として十分な特性を有していた。 体上に形成した。図5において、図23と同じ符号は図 23において説明したので説明を省略する。

【0105】なお、成膜の際に、カソード電極2の近傍 でアース電位に保たれた、基体3を除く最短距離のアー ス電位部分(通常は反応容器1またはカソード電極シー ルド6)との距離d1と前記基体3とカソード電極2と の電極間距離d2との間の比、d1/d2の値、がd1 /d2=0.5, d1/d2=0.9, d1/d2=1、d1/d2=2となるように変化させた。

【0106】上記したd1/d2の条件で作製されたa 30 30%であった。 -SI膜を前記した方法により膜厚ムラを測定したとこ ろ、夫々順に約±30%、約±12%、約±10%、約 ±7%となった。つまり、d1/d2の値が1以上とな った時に膜厚ムラが少なくなることがわかる。

【0107】それぞれの膜は分布のみの影響が大きく、 同じ膜厚部分の膜について部分的にa-Si膜の膜質を 測定したところ、膜質は電子写真感光体デバイスや画像 入力用ラインセンサー等に使用して充分使用し得るもの であった。

【0108】放電周波数を50MHzとした以外は上記 40 した条件と同様にしてa-Si膜を同様の被成膜基体上 に形成したところほぼ同様の結果が得られた。

【0109】以上の結果からわかるように、カソード近 傍でアース電位に保たれた基体を除く最短距離のアース 電位部分(真空槽及びカソード電極シールド)との距離 d 1と前記基体とカソード電極との電極間距離 d 2 で d 1/d2≥1とすることにより放電周波数が高くなるこ とによる膜厚ムラの問題を解決でき、更に放電周波数に よる装置形状を最適化することが可能である。

【0110】成膜条件(5)

24

• • • \$ i H4 原料ガス

・キャリアーガス・・・H2

• • • 5 i H4 ・ガス流量 350sccm

350sccm

•••0, 25torr ・圧力

•••310℃ ・基体温度

•••0, 5W/cm² ・高周波電力

【0111】(実施例6及び比較例5)図6に示される プラズマCVD装置を用いて、カソード電極の円筒軸方 10 向の寸法(L1)と被成膜基体の円筒軸方向の寸法(L 2) との比(L1/L2) を1.0とし、高周波電源の 発振周波数(放電周波数)を100MHzとして、下記 の成膜条件(6)でa-Si膜を被成膜基体上に形成し た。図6において、図23と同じ符号は図23において 説明したので説明を省略する。

【0112】形成されたa-Si膜を、前記した方法に より膜厚ムラを測定したところ、約±8%であった。

【0113】また、形成されたa-Si膜の膜質は電子 写真感光体デバイスや画像入力用ラインセンサー等に使

【0114】従来法との比較のため、図23のプラズマ CVD装置を用いて、カソード電極と被成膜基体の円筒 軸方向の寸法比を2、0とし、13.56MHz及び1 05MHzの高周波電源を用いて、成膜条件(6)でa -Si膜を被成膜基体上に形成したところ、13.56 MHzの高周波放電の場合の膜厚ムラは約±10%、平 均堆積速度は5 (µm/時間)であったが、放電周波数 を100MHzとした以外は同じ条件でa-Si膜を成 膜し、同様に膜厚ムラを測定したところ膜厚ムラは約土

【0115】以上の結果からわかるように、カソード電 極の円筒軸方向の寸法(L1)と被成膜基体の円筒軸方 向の寸法(L2)との比(L1/L2)を1.0とする ことによって、放電周波数が高くなることによる膜厚ム ラの問題を解決でき、更に放電周波数による装置形状を 最適化することが可能である。

【0116】成膜条件(6)

・原料ガス • • • S i H 4

・キャリアーガス・・・H2

・ガス流量 • • • S i H 4 350 s c c m

H₂ 350sccm

• • • 0. 25 torr ・圧力

・基体温度 •••310℃

•••0. 5W/cm² ・高周波電力

【0117】(実施例7及び比較例6)図7に示される プラズマCVD装置を用いて、放電周波数を50MHz として、下記の成膜条件(7)でa-SI膜を被成膜基 体上に形成した。図7において、図23と同じ符号は図 23において説明したので説明を省略する。また、14 50 はカソード電極2用のアースシールド、15はガス噴出

口である。

【0118】図7においては、アースシールド14と、アースシールド14とプラズマ発生空間の接する空間が石英で覆われている。

【0119】図7に示される装置を用いて形成されたa - S i 膜を前記したのと同様に膜厚ムラを測定したところ、形成されたa - S i 膜の膜厚ムラは約±9%であった。

【0120】それに対し、図7のプラズマCVD装置を 用いて前記石英を外した以外は、即ち、アースシールド 10 14が露出された状態とした以外は、同様に下記成膜条 件(7)でa-Si膜を形成し膜厚ムラを測定したところ膜厚ムラは約±30%であった。

【0121】それぞれの膜は分布のみの影響が大きく、いずれの装置で形成されたa-Si膜の同じ膜厚部分で部分的にa-Si膜の膜質を測定したところ、いずれの装置で形成されたa-Si 膜の膜質も電子写真感光体デバイスや画像入力用ラインセンサー等に十分使用し得るものであった。

【0122】放電周波数を100MHzとした以外は同 20様にしてa-Si膜を同様の被成膜基体上に形成したと 2ろほぼ同様の結果が得られた。

【0123】以上の結果からわかるように、アースシールドとアースシールドとプラズマ発生空間の接する空間を絶縁物で覆うことにより、放電周波数が高くなることによる膜厚ムラの問題を解決でき、更に放電周波数による装置形状を最適化することが可能である。

【0124】成膜条件(7)

・原料ガス・・・SiH4

・キャリアーガス・・・H2

・ガス流量 ・・・SiH₄ 450sccm

H₂ 45'0 s c c m

・圧力 ・・・0.2torr

・基体温度 ・・・310℃

・高周波電力・・・0、5W/cm²

【0125】(実施例8及び比較例7)図8に示されるプラズマCVD装置を用いて、放電周波数を50MHzとして、下記の成膜条件(8)でa-Si膜を被成膜基体上に形成した。図8において、図23と同じ符号のものは同じものであるため説明を省略する。また、図8に40おいて、14はカソード電極2用のアースシールド、15はガス噴出口、17はカソード電極3上に設けられた絶縁体カバーである。図8に図示されるようにカソード電極2の表面は絶縁体カバー17として開口率20%とした石英カバーにて覆われている。

【0126】図8に示されるプラズマCVD装置を用いて形成されたa-Si膜の膜厚ムラを、上記したのと同様な方法で測定したところ、膜厚ムラは約±10%であった。

【0127】また、図8のプラズマCVD装置におい

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て、前記絶縁体カバー17を外した以外は同様の成膜条件でa-Si膜を形成し、同様に膜厚ムラを測定したところ膜厚ムラは約30%であった。

【0128】それぞれの装置で形成されたa-Si膜は分布のみの影響が大きく、同じ膜厚部分で部分的にa-Si膜の膜質を測定したところ、膜質は電子写真感光体デバイスや画像入力用ラインセンサー等の使用に十分なものであった。

【0129】また、放電周波数を100MHzとした以 外は同様にしてa-Si膜を同様の被成膜基体上に形成 したところほぼ同様の結果が得られた。

【0130】更に、カソード電極上全体を絶縁体カバー 17で覆った場合も同様に膜厚ムラなくa-Si膜を形成することができた。

【0131】以上の結果から分かるように、カソード電極上の一部叉は全体を誘電体(絶縁体)で覆うことにより、放電周波数が高くなることによる膜厚ムラの問題を解決でき、更に放電周波数による装置形状を最適化することが可能である。

20 【0132】成膜条件(8)

原料ガス・・・SiH4

・キャリアーガス・・・Hz

・ガス流量・・・・SiH4450sccm

H₂ 450 sccm

・圧力 ・・・0. 2 torr

・基体温度 ・・・310℃

・高周波電力 ・・・0、5W/cm²

【0133】(実施例9)図9に示されるプラズマCV D装置を用いて、カソード電極の円筒軸方向の寸法(L 30 1)と被成膜基体の円筒軸方向の寸法(L2)との比 (L1/L2)を1.0とし、放電周波数を100MH zとし、下記の成膜条件(9)でa-Si膜を被成膜基 体上に形成した。図9において、図23と同じ符号は図 23において説明したので説明を省略する。また、図9 において、15はガス噴出口、21及び22はシールド 材である。

【0134】なお、高周波導入側に面したシールド材22はアルミニウム、プラズマに接した側に面したシールド材21は鉄として、a-Si膜を被成膜基体に成膜し、同様に膜厚ムラを測定した。その結果、形成されたa-Si膜の膜厚ムラは約±3%であった。また、形成されたa-Si膜の膜質は電子写真感光体デバイスや画像入力用ラインセンサー等に使用されるa-Si膜として充分な特性を有するものであった。

【0135】また、放電周波数を100MHzとした以外は同様の条件でa-Si膜を同様の被成膜基体上に形成したところほぼ同様の結果が得られた。

【0136】以上の結果からわかるように、放電周波数が高くなることによる膜厚ムラの問題を解決でき、更 50 に、放電周波数による装置形状を最適化することが可能

である。

【0137】成膜条件(9)

・原料ガス • • • S i H4

・キャリアーガス・・・H2

・ガス流量 • • • S i H 4 450sccm

Ηz 450 s c c m

・圧力 · · · 0. 2torr

・基体温度 . . . 3 1 0 ℃

・高周波電力 · · • 0. 5 W / c m²

CVD装置を用いて、カソード電極の円筒軸方向の寸法 (L1)と被成膜基体の円筒軸方向の寸法(L2)との 比(L 1/L 2)を1.0とし、放電周波数を100M Hzとし、下記成膜条件(10)にてa-Si膜を被成 膜基体に成膜した。なお、図10において、図23と同 じ符号のものは図23で説明したものと同じであるため 説明を省略する。また、図10において、14はカソー ド電極2用のアースシールド、19は絶縁体カバーであ る。図10においては、カソード電極2と被成膜基体電 極間3以外のアースシールド14とプラズマ発生空間と 20 の接触する空間を絶縁体カバー19である石英にて覆 い、カソード電極2の近傍に設置され且つプラズマ発生 空間に接するアース電位に保たれた基体3を除く最短距 離のアース電位部分(反応容器1及びカソード電極シー ルド14)との距離d1と前記基体とカソード電極との 電極間距離 d 2 で d 1 / d 2 = 1 とした。

【0139】図10に示される装置によって形成された a - S i 膜を被成膜基体に成膜し、同様に膜厚ムラを測 定した。その結果形成されたa-Si膜の膜厚ムラは約 子写真感光体デバイスや画像入力用ラインセンサー等に 使用するに充分な特性を有するものであった。

【0140】また、放電周波数を100MHzとした以 外は同様の条件でa-Si膜を同様の被成膜基体上に形 成したところほぼ同様の結果が得られた。

【0141】以上の結果からわかるように、放電周波数 が高くなることによる膜厚ムラの問題を解決でき、更に 放電周波数による装置形状を最適化することが可能であ

【0142】成膜条件(10)

・原料ガス • • • S i H4

・キャリアーガス・・・H2

・ガス流量 • • • S i H4 450sccm

Ha 450sccm

· · · 0. 2torr 圧力

· · · 310℃ ・基体温度

・高周波電力 •••0. 5W/cm²

【0143】(実施例11)図11に示される本発明の プラズマエッチング装置を用いて、放電周波数を50M Hzとして、下記のエッチング条件(1)でa-Si膜 50 28

をアルミニウム金属をエッチングマスクとしてエッチン グ処理した。なお、図10において、図23と同じ符号 のものは図23で説明したものと同じであるため説明を 省略する。また、52は基板3のホルダーである。

【0144】被エッチング物は図12に示されるよう に、ガラス等の少なくとも表面が絶縁性とされた平板で ある基板1201上に形成されたa-Si層1202、 該a-Si層1202上に形成されたn型のa-Si層 (コンタクト層)1203、そして電極となるアルミニ 【0138】(実施例10)図10に示されるプラズマ 10 ウム金属層1204を有しており、アルミニウム金属層 1204が被覆されていない部分のn型のa-Si層1 203をエッチング除去した。なお、被エッチング物 は、上記n型のa-Si屬1203が除去されて、前記 アルミニウム金属層1204を対向する電極とし、その 電極間のn型のa-Si層1203が除去された領域を 光入射領域とする光センサーとなる。

> 【0145】まず、50MHzでのカソード電極インピ ーダンスZcの関係を図14に基づいて、50MHzで のプラズマインピーダンスZpに対しカソード電極長 | を変えて、 | Z c | / | Z p | = 5、 | Z c | / | Z p |=1なる条件として夫々エッチングムラを測定した。 ここで、エッチングムラとは被エッチング物のエッチン グ深さの最大値と最小値の差を平均エッチング深さで割 った値の1/2に士を付した値で表記する。

> 【0146】その結果、 | Z c | / | Z p | = 5 の時は エッチングムラが約110%、 | 2 c | / | 2 p | = 1 の時はエッチングムラが約±4%となった。

【0147】また、比較として、図14に基づいて電極 長丨を変えて丨Zc丨/丨Zp丨=10、丨Zc丨/丨 **±3%であった。また形成されたa-Si膜の膜質は電 30 Zp]=20とした以外は下記エッチング条件(1)で** エッチングを行なったところ、エッチングムラは夫々順 に約±15%、約±20%となった。

> 【0148】同様に、放電周波数を100MHzとした 以外は上記した条件でエッチングを行なったところ、上 記結果とほぼ間じ結果が得られた。

> 【0149】なお、上記した被エッチング物のa-Si 層を上記実施例1~10に示された装置及び方法によっ て形成したところ、a-Si層の膜厚ムラが極めて少な く光センサーとしての特性も極めて優れたものであっ

40 た。特に長尺センサーの場合は長さ方向に問題となるよ うな特性ムラがなく、極めて優れたものであった。

【0150】以上の結果からわかるように、放電周波数 が高くなることによるエッチングムラの問題を解決で き、更に放電周波数による装置形状を最適化することが 可能である。

【0151】エッチング条件(1)

・エッチングガス・・・CF4+O2

・ガス流量 ···CF4 100sccm

200 s c c m O2

· · · 0. 03torr ・圧力

 高周波電力 ••• 0. 1 W / c m²

・・・水冷(20℃) ・冷却方法

[0152]

【発明の効果】本発明のプラズマ処理装置及び方法によ れば、13.56MHzより高い放電周波数で特に30 MHz以上300MHz以下の放電周波数でのカソード 電極近傍でのプラズマ密度の均一化や膜厚分布均一化を 行うことが可能となる。特に、放電周波数を高くして処 理速度を向上させるといったランニングコストの低減や 処理コストの低減を行なうことができるのみならず成膜 10 の図である。 やエッチング方法の検討や試作、開発の期間を短くし短 期間で装置形状、方法の最適化が可能となる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明を実施したプラズマCVD装置の構成模 式図である。

【図2】本発明を実施したプラズマCVD装置の構成模 式図である。

【図3】本発明を実施したプラズマCVD装置の構成模 式図である。

【図4】本発明を実施したプラズマCVD装置の構成模 20 式図である。

【図5】本発明を実施したプラズマCVD装置の構成模 式図である。

【図6】本発明を実施したプラズマCVD装置の構成模 式図である。

【図7】本発明を実施したプラズマCVD装置の構成模 式図である。

【図8】本発明を実施したプラズマCVD装置の構成模 式図である。

【図9】本発明を実施したプラズマCVD装置の構成模 30 式図である。

【図10】本発明を実施したプラズマCVD装置の構成 模式図である。

【図11】本発明を実施したプラズマCVD装置の構成 模式図である。

【図12】被エッチング物の構成を説明するための模式 的断面図である。

【図13】カソード電極のインピーダンス特性を説明す るためのグラフである。

【図14】カソード電極のインピーダンス特性を説明す 40 152 カソード電極 るためのグラフである。

【図15】カソード電極のインピーダンス特性を説明す るためのグラフである。

【図16】放電周波数に対するプラズマ密度ムラを説明 するための図である。

【図17】カソード近傍のプラズマ密度分布を説明する ための図である。

【図18】カソード近傍のプラズマ密度分布を説明する ための図である。

【図19】カソード近傍のプラズマ密度分布を説明する ための図である。

【図20】膜厚分布の放電周波数依存性を説明するため

【図21】膜厚分布の放電周波数依存性を説明するため の図である。

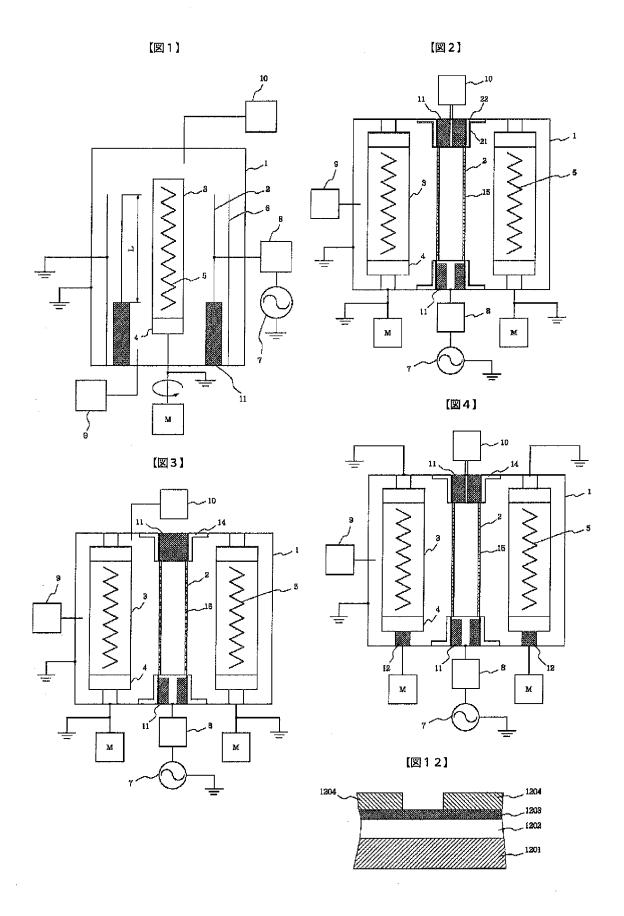
【図22】高周波等価回路を説明するための図である。

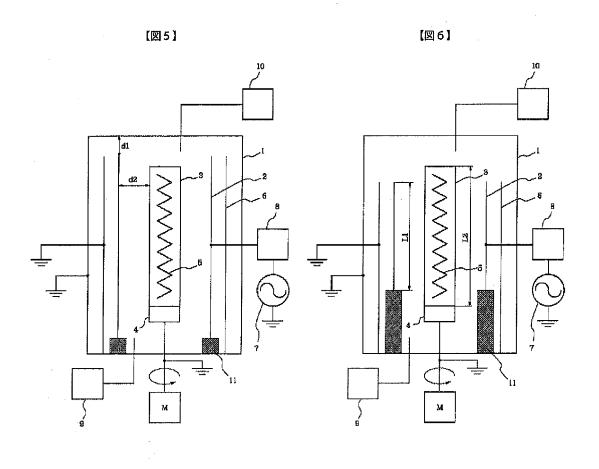
【図23】従来のプラズマCVD装置の構成模式図であ

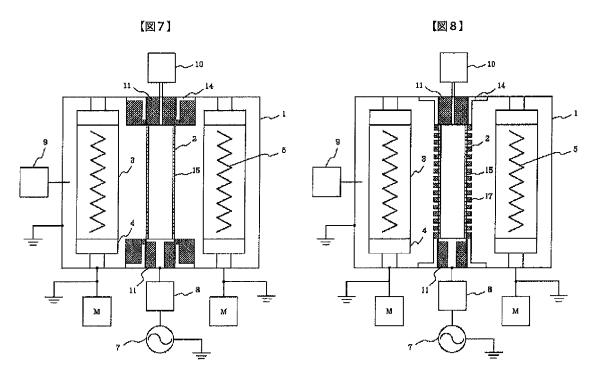
【図24】本発明の比較のためのプラズマCVD装置の 構成模式図である。

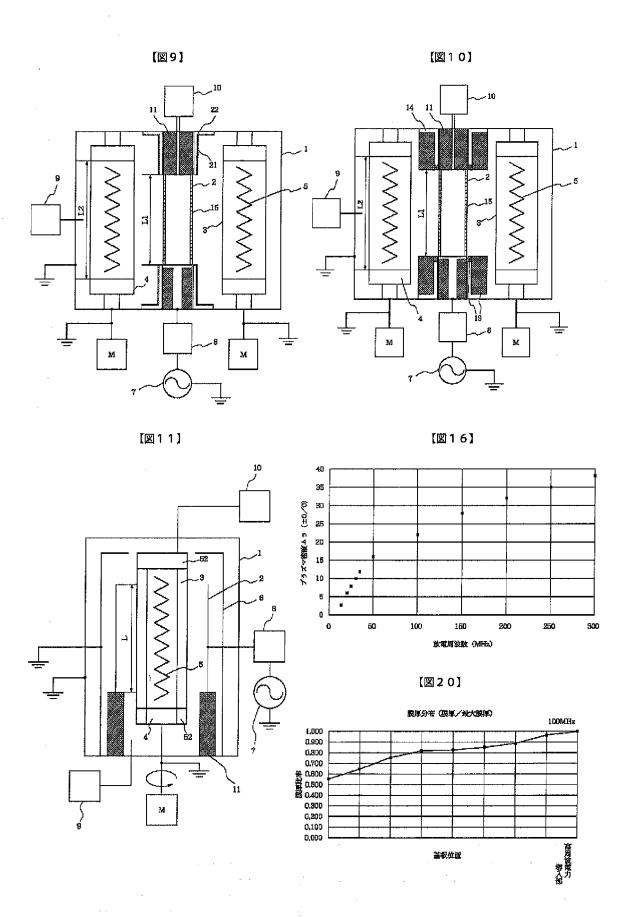
【符号の説明】

- 1 反応容器
- 2 カソード電極
 - 3 被成膜基体
 - 4 回転機構
 - 5 加熱ヒータ
 - 6 アースシールド
 - 7 高周波電源
 - 8 整合回路
 - 9 真空排気手段
 - 10 ガス供給手段
 - 11 絶縁材料
- 12 基体用絶縁材料
- 13 スペーサ
- 14 カソード電極用のアースシールド
- 15 ガス噴出口
- 16 容量結合用絶縁材料
- 17 カソード電極上の絶縁体カバー
- 18 アースシールド上の絶縁体カバー
- 21 非磁性材力ソード電極用のアースシールド
- 22 軟磁性材力ソード電極用のアースシールド
- 151 高周波電源
- 153 被処理基体
- 154 プラズマ
- 155 アースシールド



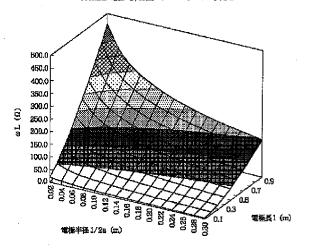


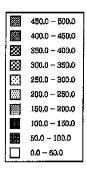




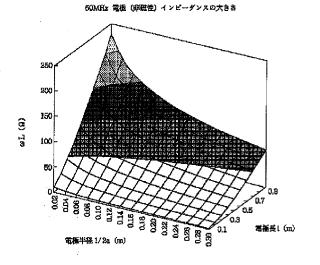
【図13】

100MHz 電極(非磁性)インピーダンスの大きさ



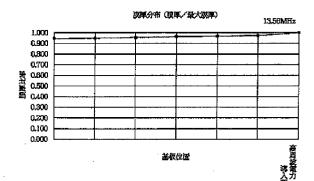


[図14]

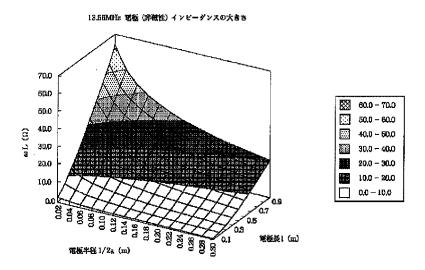




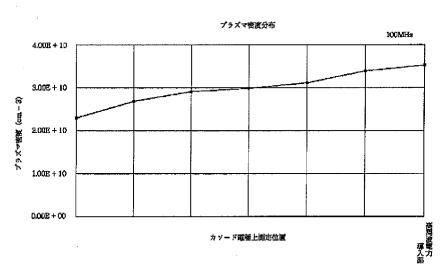
【図21】



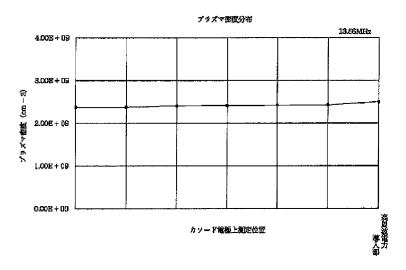
【図15】



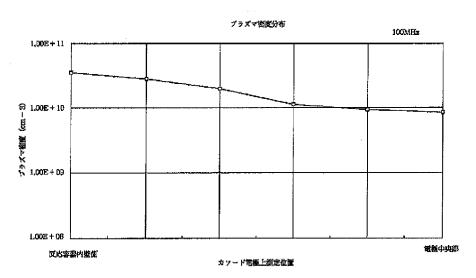
【図17】

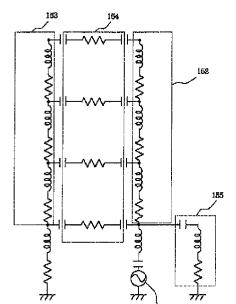


[図18]

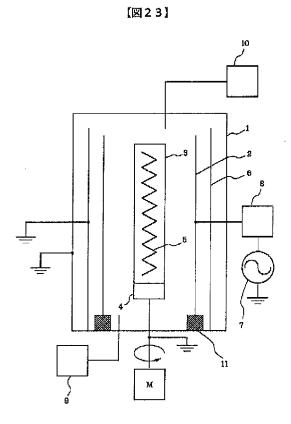


【図19】





[図22]



【図24】

